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Army Official on Dismantling Military Equipment

WS1002112393 Minsk SEM DNEY in Russian
23 Jan 93 p 5

[Interview with Major General Viktor Konstantinovich Vakar, chief of the National Agency for Control and Inspection at the Belarusian Defense Ministry, by SEM DNEY correspondent Vladimir Rudenko under the "From Competent Sources" rubric: "Disarmament Is an Expensive Undertaking. But It Is Necessary...."; place and date not given—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] In line with the treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe [CFE], Belarus must destroy more than 1,500 tanks, over 300 infantry personnel carriers [BMP], and about 100 aircraft. This is what General-Major Viktor Konstantinovich Vakar, chief of the National Agency for Control and Inspection at the Belarusian Defense Ministry, told a SEM DNEY correspondent:

[Vakar] We have three centers for the destruction of arms and military equipment as foreseen by CFE. In Borisov, at the factory for tank repair, the work is in full swing. Currently, BMP's are being dismantled there, and tanks will be the next. In Stankovo, armored personnel carriers are being dismantled. At the end of March or the beginning of April, we will start dismantling aircraft. This will be the third center called "Lesnaya." By the way, we have all the necessary technological basis there because some time ago, the equipment had been prepared for the dismantlement of launchers and medium-range and short-range missiles.

[Rudenko] Viktor Konstantinovich, what is the timetable for arms reduction? Perhaps the final result is important, and not the duration of the dismantlement itself?

[Vakar] No, the dismantlement time is strictly determined by the treaty. The dismantlement must be completed by November 1995. During the first calendar year, that is by 13 November 1993, we must dismantle 25 percent of the arms and equipment which are subject to dismantlement. During subsequent years, 35 and 40 percent will be dismantled, correspondingly. A year is divided into calendar periods of one to three months each. We must inform all the countries—CFE members—beforehand (15 days) about the beginning of a calendar period, its duration, and the amount of arms and equipment that will be dismantled.

[Rudenko] To tell you the truth, my heart bleeds when I see how BMP's are turned into scrap iron....

[Vakar] This metal is priceless. The steel armor is of a high quality. Remelting will be carried out at Zhlobin (Belarus) iron and steel works. Some vehicles will be adjusted for the needs of the national economy. For example, BMP-1 vehicles which are subjected to dismantlement in February, will be reequipped into fire engines. They will be used for putting out forest and peat bog fires. Universal tractors and cranes will be exploited as well. Or, a "disarmed" tank can compact silage.

[Rudenko] If there is be a demand for such vehicles, you could also offer quite a few modifications of military vehicles....

[Vakar] But we are bound by the obligations stemming from the treaty. The issue is that the treaty allows us to dismantle only a specific number of military vehicles. As for the BMP, I can speak only about 390 vehicles. Besides, all the inner parts of these vehicles which are later used for repair and other practical purposes are taken out before the dismantlement starts.

[Rudenko] Disarmament is an expensive undertaking....

[Vakar] Of course, I cannot say that it is a profitable business. But we must fulfill all the articles of the treaty. Our international image depends on it. I hope that the military conflicts are over.

[Rudenko] The dismantlement of armor, artillery, and missile equipment is under the control of foreign inspectors. Do our military experts take part in such inspections when other countries are dismantling their military equipment?

[Vakar] We are usually informed beforehand. As for business trips, we can go on inspections, but we usually stay because our ministry lacks hard currency.

CIS Foreign Economic Department Heads Convene

WS1102112393 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0800 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] The constituent assembly of the Council of Heads of Foreign Economic Departments of the CIS has been held. The council was created in accordance with the agreement on cooperation in the field of foreign economic activity signed in May 1992 in Tashkent by nine CIS countries. Delegations from seven countries participated in the work of the council. Ukraine and Turkmenistan did not send their representatives.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 11 Feb

LD1102065093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0621 GMT 11 Feb 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 11 TASS—The press continues to highlight the April 11 all-Russia referendum and related issues.

"Both the referendum and early elections may now bring about an explosive situation," NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA (INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER) quotes Valeriy Zorkin, chief justice of the Constitutional Court of Russia (CCR), as stating at a press conference in the CCR on February 10.

"When two men are having a fight, the CCR court does not aspire to the role of a 'third collective agency' to separate them," the newspaper points out. The court does not impose its mediation. Playing the role of mediator now, the CCR remains on a strictly constitutional basis."

"Will a referendum help overcome the crisis of power?" asks KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR). The newspaper writes in particular: "It is evident that the so-called December agreement between the leaders of the executive and representative branches of power under the auspices of Valeriy Zorkin, chief justice of the Constitutional Court, was both of temporary and conditional nature. The fragile truce did not hold even for several weeks. In the present situation, brought about by hard economic position of the country, the outcome of 'taking counsel with the people' may prove unexpected."

"Now that there exist all branches of power in Russia, there is no need to be preoccupied with a constituent assembly," President Mintimer Shaimiyev of Tatarstan said in an interview with NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA.

Shaimiyev declared against a referendum in Russia on April 11, since a referendum, he said, would lead to deforming the state administration structure in Russia.

Emphasising that it is now essential to press for a compromise and go ahead with reforms, the president of Tatarstan pointed out that the Viktor Chernomyrdin government "may become a good connecting element" which must be used to coordinate the functioning of all branches of power. Shaimiyev emphasised the need for all-round support for this government.

The national and state interests of Russia rest, first and foremost, in the necessity to promote the integrity of the country, Yevgeniy Ambartsumov, chairman of the parliamentary Committee on International Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations, told the KRAZNAYA ZVEZDA. The second major priority is the protection of Russians in the former Soviet republics. "It is necessary to acknowledge that Russia bears full responsibility for the fate of those people," he said. The third direction is the joining of the world community on the basis of recognising human rights as a priority.

Colonel-General V. Achalov, head of the information-analytical group of the Russian parliament, blasted the START-2 treaty as, he claimed, Russia has now to eliminate all its cheap strategic weapons while the USA retains the basis of its strategic forces. In an interview with PRAVDA, Achalov, former Soviet first deputy defence minister, said that "we were hastily involved in another adventure which can result in consequences even worse than the experiments of ... (former acting Prime Minister Yegor) Gaydar in economy."

Crime rate in the Army continues to grow and has exceeded by 80 per cent the number of "civilian robberies," Viktor Tarannikov, an employee of the Centre of International and Military Research of the RAU-Corporation, told PRAVDA. In an article headlined "Imprisoned Generals" he points out that embezzlement of Army property is the main crime. According to military prosecutors, only the population of Northern Caucasus possesses 15 thousand firearms.

Gennadiy Zyuganov, member of the organising committee of the Second Extraordinary Congress of the Communist Party of Russia, dwells on prospects of reviving communist movement in Russia in an article in SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA on the eve of the congress.

Yeltsin, Clinton Discuss Yugoslav Settlement on Phone

LD1002220193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2059 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow February 10 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin and U.S. President Bill Clinton had a telephone conversation late on Wednesday [10 February] to discuss the conflict settlement in Bosnia, the Russian presidential press service said.

Clinton informed Yeltsin about the U.S. stand on the settlement and expressed hope that Russia will use its influence in the region to achieve a political solution to the Bosnian problem.

Yeltsin told Clinton what steps Russian diplomats are taking to help reach a compromise between the warring sides.

Yeltsin and Clinton voiced hope that Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher who are expected to meet in Geneva shortly will set a date and place of a U.S.-Russian summit meeting.

Yeltsin Thanks Nixon for Interest, Support

LD1002152293 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] The RUSSIAN INFORMATION AGENCY reports that Boris Yeltsin met former U.S. President Richard Nixon today. The Russian leader thanked Nixon not only for taking a keen interest in Russian affairs, but also for actively supporting Russian reforms. It was said that Nixon's mission will play an important part in broadening Russian-American cooperation and creating the broadest possible level of cooperation in the international arena.

Nixon Meets Kozyrev, Discusses Western Investment

OW1002155693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1530 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, and others from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Both the USA and Russia are great powers, and there is nothing wrong in their being in disagreement sometimes. Differences in their attitudes should be respected. This was the leit-motif of what the former U.S. President, Richard Nixon, said. On Wednesday [10 February] he met with journalists briefly, following his talks with Russia's Foreign Minister, Andrey Kozyrev. The ex-president did not elaborate why he deemed it necessary to stress that the global interests of the two countries needn't coincide.

As the honorary chairman of the American Fund for Democracy and Development, Nixon came to Moscow on a fact-finding tour. In answer to a question from IF's [INTERFAX's] correspondent, he said that at present the Western governments have limited opportunities for giving Russia financial aid, since their countries, Japan among them, have to cope with an economic recession. In the meantime the potential of private investors is extremely high, he said. According to the ex-president, the flow of private investment to Russia will depend largely on how stable the situation in the country is, and whether Moscow proves to be able to resolve such problems, as inflation.

According to Nixon, there is no doubt that the process of reforms in Russia will continue, despite the present difficulties, and in the long run the country will receive a vast quantity of investment from Western companies.

[Moscow ITAR-TASS in English at 1639 GMT on 10 February adds the following:

["Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev met with former U.S. President Richard Nixon on Wednesday.

["Nixon has arrived in Moscow on an unofficial visit to study the situation in Russia and inform the U.S. public about the changes in Russia and widen support for the development of very close ties between the United States and Russia.

["Nixon stressed that Russia and the U.S. are two great powers and need to coordinate their foreign policies. However, this does not rule out the possibility of disagreements on some issues, the former U.S. president said, adding that disagreements exist in relations between the U.S. and its major partners, including Britain, France, Germany and Japan.

["Russia should not always follow U.S. policy, Nixon said, adding that on the whole the two countries will act jointly, but have to respect each other's views, no matter how much they differ, since these views are based on their national interests.

["Nixon confirmed his resolute support for the proposal to postpone the payment of Russia's 80 billion U.S. dollar debt to foreign countries for 15 years.

["Asked about U.S. support for private businesses in Russia, Nixon said the West is facing an economic crisis and cannot provide large-scale support to Russian private businesses via governmental channels. He said emphasis should be placed on private investments."]

Churkin on 'Close' U.S. Contacts Over Yugoslavia

LD1002174693 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1521 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin held a news conference in the press center of the Foreign Ministry of the Russian Federation in Moscow today. It dealt principally with questions relating to the Yugoslav

crisis. The Russian diplomat stressed that now an extremely important point has been reached in the process of resolving the crisis. The talks on this problem, which are being held under the leadership of Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, have been transferred from Geneva to New York so that the plan for resolving the crisis which has already been worked out can receive the support of the UN Security Council. Vitaliy Churkin also noted that Russia has decisively supported this plan and that the Security Council must approve it since there is no alternative to it. He went on to say:

[Begin Churkin recording] We are in very close contact with the U.S. Administration on these questions. I can give you a recent example of this—a message on Saturday from our Minister Kozyrev to U.S. Secretary of State Christopher and a telephone conversation which they had late last night, in which, in particular, we were told that the message had been received and had been taken into account in the deliberations which Washington was and possibly still is giving to a certain degree to the problems of resolving the Yugoslav crisis. And this evening, too, a telephone conversation is expected between the two presidents and we expect that the Yugoslav topic will be mentioned in this conversation if it goes ahead as planned. On the whole, the level of unanimity of the international community on the approach to the Yugoslav crisis, as it appears at the present time, is such that we are reassured regarding the possibility of jointly and unanimously bringing sufficient pressure to bear upon the sides so that Vance's and Owen's plan is adopted and confirmed by the corresponding resolution, an authoritative resolution of the UN Security Council. We would then go on to extremely complicated teamwork for the implementation of this plan. As we see it, however difficult this path is, there is no other. We hope that it is precisely this path that we will all take and not be diverted from it under any circumstances whatsoever. [end recording]

Churkin Expresses 'Concern' Over Izetbegovic's Position

LD1102000293 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Report by commentator Vitaliy Buzuyev on briefing by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin, including recorded excerpts from Churkin's remarks; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Buzuyev] Vitaliy Churkin briefly formulated Russia's position as follows:

[Churkin] We immediately and quite definitely declared ourselves to be in favor of the Vance-Owen plan and stated that we think that the Security Council should also come out firmly in support of the plan and resolutely tell all the sides directly involved in the conflict that the plan must be adopted, since there is no alternative to it. [passage omitted]

[Buzuyev] Vitaliy Churkin also said:

[Churkin] Of some concern to us is the position of Izetbegovic, the Moslem leader, who has still not come to New York. The last thing we heard is that he is talking about the possibility of appearing in New York in a few days' time, in 4-5 days' time, which cannot fail to provide grounds for some doubt as to his intentions and his approach to a political settlement, since hours rather than days count here.

[Buzuyev] According to the Russian deputy foreign minister, the United States has already decided in principle to back the Vance- Owen plan, which became clear following a telephone conversation between Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev and U.S. Secretary of State Christopher.

Diplomat Claims U.S. Support for Vance-Owen Plan

PM1002173193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Feb 93 p 3

[Maksim Yusin report: "Christopher Has Told Kozyrev That U.S. Administration Will Support Vance-Owen Plan"]

[Text] IZVESTIYA has been informed by a ranking Russian diplomat who wished to remain anonymous that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who called Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev Tuesday [9 February] night, has stated that Bill Clinton's administration is prepared to support the Vance-Owen plan for a peace settlement in Bosnia.

This news was completely unexpected: There have been persistent rumors recently that Washington was preparing an alternative initiative. However, all the indications are that Clinton has finally agreed with the arguments of his West European allies and Russia, all of whom support the Vance-Owen plan.

The American decision was met with a sigh of relief in Moscow. "There are now real prospects for realizing the peace plan. The fact that the Russian leadership and the new U.S. Administration have adopted a single position on this contentious issue is a very good sign," the diplomat, who is part of Kozyrev's immediate entourage, commented.

Meanwhile, the details of the initiative formulated by the Americans were leaked to the press. AFP cites remarks by a "ranking Clinton administration staffer" that the plan, which consists of four points—diplomatic, military, economic, and humanitarian—envisages the possible dispatch of U.S. troops to Bosnia within the framework of international forces. ABC reported that the U.S. contingent would number 15,000.

According to information from our informant in the Foreign Ministry, Kozyrev and Christopher did not discuss the details of the U.S. plan. However, he was convinced that Clinton's initiative, which will be officially announced in the next few days, will not be at odds

with the Vance-Owen plan, but on the contrary is designed to implement it: The Americans will put their troops at the disposal of the United Nations. The diplomat did not rule out the possibility that Russian troops will also be enlisted to implement the peace plan. He also announced that a telephone conversation between Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin is scheduled for the evening of 10 February—one of the main topics will be the situation in Bosnia.

Commentator Views Russian-U.S. Trade Relations

LD1002222293 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1810 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Vladislav Kozyakov commentary]

[Text] Trade between the United States and its main rivals on the world market is going from one crisis to another. It's either the steel war or the telecommunications war with the European Community or the auto war with Japan. And though the Russian- American economic ties are on a small scale, they are not that smooth. This commentary by Vladislav Kozyakov:

Delays with repayments on guaranteed loans taken by Russia to buy American grain have forced the U.S. Department of Agriculture to suspend further economic cooperation. For over two months the United States and Russia have made no deals for deliveries of the American wheat to Russia.

Such an abnormal situation is fraught with serious consequences for both sides. In Russia this may affect the food supply to the population. The United States may suffer from the lowering of prices for grain, which would require the payment of larger subsidies to farmers. By some estimates taxpayers will have to pay up to one billion U.S. dollars for this purpose in the next fiscal year.

What could be the outcome? Well, naturally it's a matter of Russia's greater solvency. And here, the postponement in paying off the large external debt is legitimately under discussion. Western countries, creditors, did so repeatedly in the case of Poland, Argentina and some other states.

But there's another remedy. To normalize trade relations with Russia, free them from the legacy of the Cold War; that is, to create conditions whereby Moscow can earn currency at the world market and pay from it for grain and other products it buys abroad.

But for some reason Washington is not inclined to follow such a road. For example, the U.S. Department of State does not allow yet for Russian companies to launch the satellites made in the United States. This also concerns any satellite that has some American- made component parts. Thus, Russian is virtually deprived from access to the world market in the sphere whereby it could work efficiently and earn money for its own foreign trade, since the average price for each K-Rocket with a satellite costs about $40 million.

Nevertheless, Russia and the United States may continue mutually advantageous operations in this sphere. Late last year Lockheed Aircraft Corporation and the Russian Kuchinev Enterprise reached an agreement to create a joint company for launching communications satellites. At the Lockheed business in California it was planned to build 21 satellites to be launched into outer space by the Russian spaceship Proton from the Baykonaur Cosmodrome. Lockheed considered it a chance to save jobs for its workers.

So who is interested in the United States in preserving the ban for launching satellites with the help of Russian carrier rockets?

Free trade is not when one country acts as a benefactor for another. Its normalization between Russia and the United States might be mutually beneficial.

Yeltsin Reportedly Accepts Invitation To Visit Poland

LD1002205093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1944 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Potyomkin]

[Text] Warsaw February 10 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin's message was handed to head of the Polish state Lech Walesa by Russian Ambassador to Warsaw Yuriy Kashlev today.

According to the Polish president's press bureau, the head of the Russian state informs the Polish president that he has accepted Lech Walesa's invitation to pay an official visit to the Republic of Poland.

The press bureau reports that in the course of the talk between the Polish president and the Russian ambassador, the two discussed the state of Russo-Polish relations and the progress of reforms in both countries. Yuriy Kashlev stressed the importance of the Polish experience for Russia.

Ukrainian Diplomat Assails Decision on USSR Property

OW1002155393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1531 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Report by diplomatic correspondents Andrey Borodin, Dmitriy Voskoboynikov, Igor Porshnev, and others from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press attache of the Ukrainian Embassy in Moscow, Vadim Dolganov, has qualified the decree on the former Soviet Union's property abroad signed by the

Russian president on Monday [8 February] as "absolutely unmotivated". The decree stipulates that the Russian Federation, as successor to the former USSR, undertakes to own the entire immovable and movable property of the former USSR abroad and honor all commitments connected with the use of such property.

According to Dolganov, Ukraine believes that "any unilateral decisions" designed to determine Russia's status as the only successor to the former USSR conflict with international law. "This is a serious violation of the rights of other members of the former Soviet Union," he told INTERFAX.

According to the Ukrainian diplomat, such actions frustrate all agreements reached between the CIS countries earlier, under which Russia succeeded to the Soviet Union's membership in the U.N. as a permanent member of the Security Council. Besides, President Yeltsin's decree "runs counter to the agreements reached in the framework of the CIS in regard to the distribution of the former Soviet Union's property abroad", said Dolganov.

According to him, Moscow's decision also conflicts with the fact that Ukraine and Russia are engaged in negotiations on the destiny of the former Soviet Union's debts and assets. "All this undoubtedly complicates relations between Ukraine and Russia," said Dolganov. This is Kiev's official stand, he explained.

Voicing his personal outlook, he noted that "Russian politicians act in the present situation as they have always done, that is in accordance with the following principle: "Whoever yells loudest is right". "Realizing that the decree is weak from the legal point of view, they'll try to accuse Ukraine of taking unilateral actions to divide the Black Sea Fleet, of assisting Serbia, and the like," the diplomat said.

Kiev proceeds from the assumption that Ukraine's share in the assets and liabilities of the former USSR makes up 16

. "It's natural, therefore, that Ukraine will claim the appropriate share of the common property abroad," he explained.

The diplomat made it clear that he favors the viewpoint according to which Ukraine would pay its debts on its own, and receive the share of the former union's property abroad due to it. "This is prompted by economic, not political, considerations," he said. Ukraine has received "virtually nothing" from the former Soviet Union's property abroad, except a small building in Tehran where the Ukrainian Embassy is located, he added. "This is due to the personal connections of Ukraine's Ambassador to Iran, Mr. Maydan, who used to work in the system of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, and who has many friends in Moscow," Dolganov said.

According to him, the situation is complicated by the fact that members of Russia's diplomatic missions banish their colleagues who adopted Ukrainian citizenship and joined Ukraine's missions abroad, or charge enormous sums of money for the right to use premises, Dolganov said.

Official Says DPRK Diplomats Not Expelled

OW1002135293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1339 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A senior official at the Russian Foreign Ministry, Valeriy Yermolov, in an interview with Interfax, denied reports to the effect that two North Korean diplomats were expelled from Russia for an attempt to send to their country 32 Russian specialists in rocket technology. The Russian Security Ministry, he said, did prevent a group of rocket scientists from leaving for North Korea in October 1992, but none of that country's diplomats were expelled.

When the incident became known, the Russian authorities pointed out to the North Korean Ambassador and other high-ranking embassy officers that such activities are intolerable, and, if continued, may have a negative effect on Russian-North Korean relations, Yermolov said.

Arms Markets Sought in Near East

PM1002142793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Feb 93 pp 1, 5

[Interview with Major General Sergey Karaoglanov, chairman of the "Oboroneksport" Russian State Association, by military observer Viktor Litovkin; place and date not given: "Arms Trade Shows Its Hand"—first four paragraphs are editorial introduction]

[Text] "We are prepared to supply weapons to any country in the Near and Middle East if there is a government decision to that effect," Major General Sergey Karaoglanov, chairman of the "Oboroneksport" Russian State Association, told IZVESTIYA's military observer. Admittedly, he made it clear that it would be inexpedient to supply them to certain states. And the reasons for this are more technical and commercial than ideological or political.

Israel, for instance, almost always buys its military hardware and weaponry from the Americans. This equipment is up to NATO standards, which are not the same as ours. It is extremely unlikely that Israel will change its standards. It could of course order a small number of combat vehicles from us—the size of its weapons market is very limited. But selling to them would mean undermining our trading relations with the Arabs. In gaining a pittance, we would be losing the chance of big deals. There is no point in trading at a loss, the general said.

Our conversation was being held in connection with the "Idex '93" exhibition, which opens in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates) 14 February. Russia is taking an unprecedented step for the first time—it is displaying at an open specialized display more than 370 examples of its latest hardware, weapons, and munitions.

"Oboroneksport" has organized the exhibit. Its leader, who became head of Russia's largest arms firm a year ago, gave an exclusive interview to IZVESTIYA.

[Litovkin] Is offering weapons for sale in a region where U.S., British, French, and German firms have traditionally held sway worth the risk? A region where their combat hardware gave an effective account of itself during the Gulf crisis and is even now demonstrating its brilliant potential?

[Karaoglanov] There is no risk. The quality of U.S. weaponry is considerably overstated. For instance, the practical firing effectiveness of the Patriot surface-to-air missile complex is just 0.33. In other words, it requires three missiles to hit a single target—even such an obsolete one as a Scud that has been ruined by modifications.

The Patriot was operating under ideal conditions—its controllers knew where the missiles were launched from, where they were targeted, and how they would get there. But, even so, large Scud sections landed on Israeli and Arab homes, sowing destruction. I can assure you that if our S-300 or Tor complexes had been used in place of the Patriots, none of the major fragments would have made it to the ground. Their firing effectiveness is 0.91-0.98—in order words, virtually one missile per target.

Demonstration firings of these systems recently took place at the Emba Test Range in Kazakhstan. They were attended by foreigners, including representatives from the Emirates. These representatives were simply stunned at our equipment's combat potential. The Tor, which has no counterpart in any army, worked automatically and hit targets which had already been intercepted by other systems but were continuing to fall in arbitrary trajectories.

[Litovkin] I attended those exercises, IZVESTIYA has written about them.

[Karaoglanov] So I don't need to add anything then. The same high combat qualities are to be found in our other systems—the S-300 PMU, the S-300 V, the Tunguska, and the Strela-10 M3, which we are also taking to the "Idex '93" exhibition. The T-80U tank with its 1,250-horsepower gas-turbine engine and its 125-mm smoothbore gun, which can be used to fire antitank guided missiles, will also be there. As will the BMP-3, with its 100-mm gun, guided weapons system, 500-horsepower engine, and speed of 70 kph.

Incidentally, the T-80 and the BMP-3, which are both air-conditioned, beat their U.S., German, and French competitors in tests held in the Arabian deserts. We will also be taking to the Emirates the Tochka-U tactical missile system, with a range of 120 km and a probable error of no more than 50 meters, and the Msta-S precision weapons system equipped with a detection station [razvedyvatelnaya ustanovka] and a laser-guided 152-mm Krasnopol shell, which can hit a tank with an accuracy of 0.9 meters over a distance of 36 km.

We will also be displaying in Abu Dhabi the Smerch multiple rocket launcher system, the Shturm-S, Konkurs-M, and Metis-M antitank guided missile systems, new-generation shoulder-fired antitank rocket launchers, mortars, and other unique systems, many of which have never been displayed abroad.

We will also be taking to the Emirates models of our aircraft and helicopters, and mockups of small ships, air cushion vehicles, and a minisubmarine called the Piranya. The large ASW vessel Admiral Tributs, currently in the Persian Gulf, will be docking in the capital of the Emirates.

[Litovkin] But you will agree that it is hard to compare the tactical and technical features of weapons that are on display and others that are combat-proven.

[Karaoglanov] Undoubtedly. But the "Idex '93" exhibition will provide an unprecedented opportunity for every arms firm to demonstrate its hardware in action—firing on targets, crossing the roadless terrain of the Arabian deserts, and overcoming numerous types of guidance system jamming. That is, in conditions that approximate as nearly as possible to combat. In other words, this is a chance to participate in peaceful competition with all firms producing and selling weapons.

Incidentally, the exhibition organizers will be giving our delegation the chance to fire our surface-to-air missiles, precision weapons systems, antitank systems, and other types of armament every day for one hour. We have accepted this proposal. I know that our potential rivals in the arms market—the Western firms—have applied for just seven minutes' worth a day.

[Litovkin] How does your arms firm's rapid commercial activity and desire to sell more hardware to Arab countries square with the world community's desire to put a stop to the bloodshed in this explosive region? After all, demonstrating such a huge arsenal of weapons and offering them for sale constitutes material support for conflicts.

[Karaoglanov] I cannot agree with the way you put the question. Demonstrating hardware at an exhibition and selling it are two different things. We trade in weapons and coordinate our operations with all interested organizations—the Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, the Defense Ministry, the General Staff, the Finance Ministry, the Ministry of the Economy, and the government. We are doing honest business that is as open as it can be.

To all intents and purposes we are implementing state policy on weapons exports. We supply to certain countries quantities of weapons which cannot sharply alter the balance of power in the region or form the basis for potential aggression. After all, the weapons which we are demonstrating in Abu Dhabi in particular are very clearly for defensive purposes.

On the other hand, we cannot assume that if we refuse to sell combat hardware to someone, they will not buy it from our competitors. Nature abhors a vacuum—all the more so in the arms market. We must not repeat our old mistakes and confuse ideology with commerce. Weapons are a commodity which can earn us hard currency. Currency which we can use to buy bread, settle debts, convert defense enterprises, or help get the country out of the economic crisis.

One other point. We are selling weapons in the Near East to countries which have not been fighting anyone recently and have no intention to. These include the United Emirates, Oman, and Bahrain. And Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have not attacked anyone either. We are offering aircraft, air defense systems, armored equipment, and artillery. To put it bluntly, all these countries have every right to purchase weapons for their defense. So why should we refuse them? To my mind, that would be silly.

[Litovkin] But our arms sales to the region are worrying many states. Including the United States, Israel, and the United Nations.

[Karaoglanov] We always have to analyze very closely where there is cause for concern, and where the interests of the competitive struggle lie. I believe that Israel has no cause to worry. Nor are we breaking UN rules, although its sanctions sometimes cause us tangible financial loss. But that is a matter for the Russian Government. We just carry out its decisions.

As for the Americans, I have no other proof that their firms are stopping arms sales to any part of the world. On the contrary, they are filling the gaps left for whatever reason by a Russia which has made commercial blunders. Moreover, they are actively exploiting their government's support to penetrate various markets.

Few people know that U.S. firms won the contract to supply military aircraft to Finland not only because they offered more favorable terms, arranged for payment in Finnish goods, and allowed for the aircraft to be assembled at Finnish plants, but also because President Bush personally supported them in a conversation with President Koivisto...

Unfortunately, the political situation in our country prevented the Russian Government from giving the proper attention to our MiG's.

[Litovkin] I have been told that President Yeltsin is nonetheless planning to visit the Emirates to attend "Idex '93" and that the government delegation will be headed by Vice Premier Georgiy Khizha.

[Karaoglanov] I don't know whether the president will come to Abu Dhabi, but I do know that Vice Premier Georgiy Khizha and Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev will be visiting the exhibition. And I find that gratifying.

Thanks to the support of the president and the government, we have managed to hang on to our traditional weapons market in India—the planned volumes of shipments to this country are very large. This means that Russia will receive tea, coffee, textiles, and other goods that it needs. We try to work for Russia's benefit, not to its detriment.

Referendum Issues

Yeltsin Prepares for Cabinet Meetings, Talks

OW1002181593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1744 GMT 10 Feb 93

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin on Wednesday [10 February] held a series of contacts as part of preparations for tomorrow's cabinet meeting and talks with Speaker of the Russian Parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov and Chairman of the Constitutional Court Valeriy Zorkin. Speaking on Tuesday, Yeltsin proposed resuming the three- party meeting in a bid to find an effective way of narrowing differences between government and legislature. His press-secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov said the president made it clear that he would not press for a referendum if a conciliatory commission (which includes as key figures himself, Khasbulatov and Zorkin) could offer a better solution to the political crisis. (See PB [Presidential Bulletin] 243 of January 12 on the resumption of talks by the conciliatory commission).

Yeltsin meanwhile held talks with two other members of the conciliatory commission formed by December's Congress of People's Deputies—President of Sakha (Yakutiya) Mikhail Nikolayev and Leader of Karelia's Parliament Viktor Stepanov. The two men were also involved in Tuesday's session by the Council of Republican Heads of State which failed to reach agreement on the referendum issue.

The question is expected to crop up during Yeltsin's meeting with Secretary of the Security Council Yuriy Skokov late on Wednesday.

The president's routine meeting with his Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin is to be focused on tomorrow's full cabinet session which will involve both government members and deputies. For the time being, the sole question on the agenda is the outcome of Russia's social and economic development in 1992 and the government's action plan for this year. Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeyko is due to make a report taking into account Yeltsin's strong criticism of the economics ministries at last week's meeting of senior cabinet members. As part of preparations for tomorrow's cabinet meeting, Yeltsin is scheduled to hold talks with Chairman of the Central Bank of Russia Viktor Gerashchenko (The Bank together with the Economics and Finance Ministries came under Yeltsin's attack last Thursday because of failing to coordinate action—INTERFAX [IF]).

He also held a routine (once in two weeks) meeting with Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy to discuss the agrarian reform for which Rutskoy is responsible and preparations for next Saturday's full cabinet session on combatting crime.

Yeltsin and Moscow's Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov met on the same day to discuss the city administration's moves to ensure Moscow's normal functioning. They also touched upon the theme of the Russian- speaking community in the former Soviet republics, notably Latvia and Estonia.

Yeltsin's schedule also provides for intentional contacts, both direct and by telephone, and on Wednesday afternoon, he held a 30- minute-long meeting with former US President Richard Nixon.

At 5 p.m. Moscow Time, he began talks with president Askar Akayev of Kyrgyzstan to discuss bilateral economic cooperation.

Presidents Yeltsin and Clinton are due to hold a telephone conversation tonight. Among other things, the two men are expected to discuss the ratification of the Start-II treaty by the Russian and U.S. legislatures.

IF Note: Yeltsin had sent the paper for ratification by the Russian parliament on Tuesday appointing his foreign and defence ministers to be his representatives during parliamentary hearings. Deputy Chairman of the Parliamentary Defence and Security Committee Aleksandr Piskunov told INTERFAX that a relevant plan for such hearings had been submitted to Speaker of the Parliament Khasbulatov. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet is scheduled to hold a special meeting on February 22 to consider the Start-2 agreement as a whole.

Yeltsin To Insist on Referendum if No Consensus Reached

LD1102090893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0816 GMT 11 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow February 11 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin will insist on holding a referendum on power sharing in the country if no consensus is reached during his meeting with the parliament speaker and the chief justice on Thursday when they would look for a way out of the current political crisis.

"If today the president, the chairman of the Supreme Soviet (parliament) and the chairman of the Constitutional Court fail to arrive to a consensus, then the people will have to say their weighty utterance. But I hope that the consensus will be found", the president said on Thursday at a meeting of the Russian government, adding that he had prepared a package of proposals and is ready for a serious dialogue.

Last December, during the Congress of People's Deputies whom Yeltsin accused of a creeping coup and called on the people to decide who is to run the country - he or the legislature - Ruslan Khasbulatov and Valeriy Zorkin met with the president and arrived to a compromise which envisaged the holding of a referendum on the basics of a new constitution. However, the parliament

and heads of Russian administrations have voiced concern of late that the referendum might bring no positive results.

The "IZVESTIYA" newspaper commented that the item on the referendum was the only victory of the president in the December compromise and now attempts are made to deprive him of the victory.

Yeltsin Seeks Solution to Conflict With Parliament

LD1102105393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0950 GMT 11 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Mosow, 11 Feb—The situation in Russia remains difficult; we are going through a deep economic crisis, Russian President Boris Yeltsin stated today at an extended sitting of the Council of Ministers.

No matter how severe last year was, he said, I cannot agree that it was a lost year for Russia or, as is sometimes said, that it was a year of failure in the economy. Failure would have been inevitable if, rather than starting the reforms, only the talk about them had been continued. That was the only real scenario for catastrophe and we succeeded in avoiding it, Yeltsin stressed.

I also cannot agree, the president noted, that economic reforms in Russia proceeded according to the worst option. They proceeded according to the only possible option. When we began the reforms there were various programs and a dearth of courageous people willing to take on the whole burden of responsibility and begin work of colossal difficulty. In such circumstances all talk about which model of reforms to implement was irrelevant. There was no opportunity to choose a team that would have done this.

Last year Russia came up against many problems which we simply had never encountered before, Yeltsin said. These were problems of the market which was being formed. No one—in the government, the Supreme Soviet, at a federal or regional level—had any experience of how to tackle them. We had to tackle them as we went along.

A high price had to be paid for the reforms. But still, the president noted, we had to bear in mind that this was a price of the reforms and not of a revolution in a multinational country crammed with nuclear weapons. Despite the continuing sharpness of differences and conflicts, we are succeeding in maintaining a gradual revolutionary pace of advancement.

The previous year has shown that one of the most serious obstacles to the economic reforms are the deep-rooted differences which lie in the conflict between legislative and executive branches of power, especially at the top levels. The increasing tension in the power sphere throughout the whole of last year caused immense damage, including economic damage, the president said. Now it is capable of simply tearing the country apart and overturning any program of action—even the best one. Of course, we have no right to allow this. This year must become a year of the economy and not a year of political battles.

We will accept any way which secures a solution to this difficult problem, Yeltsin stressed. It is now clear that there are at least two options: These are a referendum and a new agreement between the branches of power, but, of course, with firm guarantees that this will be implemented and will involve the positive potential of the republics and other subjects of the federation. I think that we have to prepare for both in parallel, as I said the day before yesterday at the constitutional commission. All the more so since the referendum and the agreement have the same aim: getting rid of the conflict in state power. It would be a big political mistake to renounce one or the other at this point. That is so for the April referendum.

If the president, Supreme Soviet chairman, and Constitutional Court chairman are unable to find a consensus at their meeting tonight, the people should then have their weighty say. However, I do hope that this consensus will be found. I already have a package of proposals for today's meeting and am prepared for a serious discussion, the president said.

Zorkin Maneuvers Parties Into 'Constitutional Framework'

MK1102101193 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Feb 93 p 1

[Anna Ostapchuk report: "Valeriy Zorkin Displays Caution, Answering Neither 'Yes' Nor 'No' to Boris Yeltsin's Proposal for Another Three-Way Meeting With Khasbulatov"]

[Text] At a 10 February press conference held at the Constitutional Court, Court Chairman Valeriy Zorkin failed to make the sensational statement expected of him by the representatives of the mass media. Zorkin allowed the journalists themselves to determine the format of the conversation, whose other participants were Garis Gadzhiyev, Boris Ebzeyev, Viktor Luchin, and Supreme Court Deputy Chairman Nikolay Vitruk. Nevertheless the Supreme Court's position became completely clear as a result of the discussion.

Either a referendum or early elections could "blow the situation sky-high" today, the chairman stated. The Constitutional Court has no desire to play the part of the "third collective peasant" who tries to pull apart "two peasants" involved in a fight. It does not impose its mediation, just as it refrained from so doing in December, too. At that time it was approached by the president and the Supreme Soviet. In the past few weeks the Supreme Court chairman has had to listen to a mass of complaints by the presidents of Russian Federation republics, heads of administrations, and leaders of major

parties and social organizations. They have all asked the Constitutional Court to again display statesmanship and civic courage to get the warring sides to themselves amend the December agreement and impose a moratorium on the referendum.

Thus, Boris Ebzeyev summed up, "the court is only a repository of public sentiments. And naturally it has had to convey information about these sentiments to the executive and the legislative authorities."

In playing the part of mediator again today, the Constitutional Court is on solid constitutional ground since, under Article 165.1 of the Russian Federation Constitution, this body's sphere of responsibility includes the resolution of disputes between authorities. Despite the fact that the 10 December agreement was a "package," the removal of the referendum from it is not a violation of the spirit of compromise but merely "an adjustment of the methods for implementing it." At the time it was impossible to avoid using the word "referendum." But the situation is changing. "And time is the greatest healer!" Zorkin stated. And this will not be an infringement of the president's rights since he was the first to propose a three-way meeting and a discussion of the possibility of postponing the referendum. Not canceling but postponing! Devoting a year to the economy. Nor should there be early elections: "Early elections do not figure in the Constitution. Scheduled elections do. Wait for your proper time and teach the people to elect their politicians in a responsible way!"

The Court is merely calculating the possible consequences of a referendum. It is asking: What if voters don't turn out for the referendum or if the majority say "no." Would this mean that the people of our country are opposed to the separation of powers, the primacy of the law, a federal system, and other supremely important constitutional principles? And if the questions are framed in confrontational terms, if the defeated party does not accept its defeat, if one gang declares all-out war on the other—nobody in our country will voluntarily leave power if, in the final analysis, the referendum decision is ignored... The Constitutional Court raises all these problems within the framework of the law on the Constitutional Court, Article 80.

In the present situation opponents should "not test each other with threats of tit-for-tat resignations, but if the sides were to put the question to a congress it would revise its decision. The Congress is not a monster, not a dragon..." The duration of the moratorium must be determined by the politicians. The agreement which will be reached must be constitutional; anyone who violates it would be forced to resign.

Thus, Valeriy Zorkin has used the method of consistent blocks and nudges to shepherd all the parties to the conflict—the executive, a wise president, the legislature, a good-hearted congress, and the Constitutional Court as referee—into their proper places and into a constitutional framework.

Explains Stance on Postponing Referendum

LD1002151293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1435 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Krasulin]

[Text] Moscow, 10 Feb—The heads of republics, krays, and oblasts of Russia, and the leaders of political parties and public associations all agree that a referendum would detonate the situation in the country, Valeriy Zorkin, chairman of the Constitutional Court, said today.

He was speaking at a news conference called in connection with the Constitutional Court's proposal at the sitting of the Council of Heads of Republics of the Russian Federation to postpone the referendum. "The Constitutional Court should play the role of arbitrator in difficult and extreme situations," he said. "The referendum is not an end in itself. It is a means of stabilizing the constitutional system and achieving national accord so that there is strong power in Russia capable of implementing reforms and ensuring the integrity of the Russian Federation.

Touching on the procedure for the postponement of the referendum on which the Sixth Congress of People's Deputies passed a decision, Valeriy Zorkin noted that if the sides agree with the view that the referendum should be postponed, the Congress would need to gather and endorse that decision. "After all, Congress deputies also bear responsibility for the country's future," he stressed.

Talking about the possibility of holding early general elections, Valeriy Zorkin noted that he is against "any kind of emergency measures." "Both the president and the deputies should work out a timetable which enables people to aproach their election in a more responsible manner. Otherwise we will never get to have regular elections," he stressed. Explaining to journalists how the issue of a referendum was decided at the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies, Valeriy Zorkin said that the sides counted upon effective government action changing the situation in the country for the better. However, this did not happen and the situation deteriorated even further. Valeriy Zorkin called upon all the powers to "stop politicizing the situation and work on the economy."

"When the question of holding a referendum was decided, the people were not asked and today things have been said which take away from the people the right to a referendum," Nikolay Vitruk, deputy chairman of the Constitution Court said.

Wants Focus on Economy, Not Referendum

LD1002200793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1540 GMT 10 Feb 93

[From the Mayak "Panorama" program]

[Text] [Announcer] Chairman Valeriy Zorkin of the Constitutional Court today spoke at a news conference held in connection with the suggestion to postpone the referendum made by the Constitutional Court at the session of the council of heads of the Russian Federation republics. This is how Zorkin has defended this proposition:

[Begin Zorkin recording] You can see from various evidence, and judge from the opinions expressed by the leaders of the republics, oblasts, and krays, as well as by various political forces—all of them are of the opinion that the referendum will undermine the situation in the country. However, society should not be used for politicizing the situation to such an extent that we get completely lost in the political process. After all, the Constitutional Court should be acting as an arbiter, a mediator in such complicated and extraordinary situations. A referendum is not an end in itself, or an aim in general. It is a means for a process, for stabilizing the constitutional system, for achieving national accord based on the view that there should be a strong power capable of seeing the reforms through and ensuring the integrity of the Russian Federation.

For as long as we keep on pushing forward this process of extraordinary measures and forcing events ahead of schedule, we will arrive at the next elections. People will lose a sense of responsibility for their actions; inflation and other factors will affect these things as well. And who can guarantee that if, let's say, in April the new corps of deputies is elected ahead of schedule it will not get itself into a dead end in a month's time and call for a referendum again? Perhaps, the congress needs to be convened again to make a constructive decision.

Do we really think the congress is some kind of a monster, a dragon—as it is now being portrayed—is it really going to wreck everything in Russia? One should not have such an attitude, really. I think that, just as every one of us has a sense of self- preservation, so do the deputies. By their self-preservation instinct, I do not mean the fear of loosing their seats, but their concern about the situation which has developed in Russia. Of course, each side is interested in preserving its position and its powers.

The powers of the president are written down here in the constitution. Please, learn to observe the Constitution. Now, we keep on saying all the time: this is Brezhnev's constitution. But look at it: it has the principle of the division of powers, the Federative relations, the declaration of human rights and the rights of citizens. The president is given enormous power—here the president has more power than the President of the United States! Maybe, if we are to preserve this, we could reach some sort of a balance in society.

We must pay more attention to the economy. Instead, we politicize everything in our society and have even started to politicize the Constitutional Court. Let's tackle the economy, save the country from the crisis and, generally, from all this devastation. This matter is not about undermining the presidential powers or undermining the power of the people.

No one is taking the right of referendum away from the people. We are simply talking about the expediency of carrying out a referendum in these particular circumstances. The Constitutional Court, by its nature, could be placing itself above all this—as a guarantor, as a mediator, and as a sort of reserve instrument, just in case. Articles 165 and 11 of the Russian Federation Constitution say that the Constitutional Court is a supreme legal body which defends the constitutional order and solves disputes between the powers. [end recording]

Rutskoy Calls Referendum 'Risk of Great Havoc'

LD1102114393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1120 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow February 11 TASS—"A referendum under the present political and economic situation means a risk of great havoc," Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy said in an interview with the "24" newspaper on Thursday.

A referendum on the main provisions of the Russian constitution is to be held in Russia next April.

Explaining his point of view, the vice-president noted that "nobody knows for the time being what is suggested for the referendum. I believe that if questions for the referendum are formulated only by the beginning of March, it will be difficult for people to make a decision," he continued.

"Only one thing is clear for me now: The country badly needs a new constitution. Many legislative efforts will be futile without it and even counter-productive in some cases."

"I believe," Rutskoy noted, "right are those politicians who speak of the Russian people's unpreparedness for such an action and its possible negative consequences for Russian society, including apprehensions about the state's territorial integrity."

"I hope that we have not lost a chance of taking a decision enabling us to avoid a new round of confrontation," the vice- president stressed.

Rutskoy said that he is also doubtful of an idea to convene a special Congress of People's Deputies (supreme legislature) in March to call off the referendum. To prove his point, he noted that it would be difficult at the congress to keep the sides within a civilised dialogue.

Prosecutor General Stepankov Against Referendum

LD1102115393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1115 GMT 11 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Podyampolskiy]

[Text] Moscow February 11 TASS—Russian Prosecutor General Valentin Stepankov is against the holding of the referendum on the basics of a new constitution because he fears many people will ignore it thus discrediting the very idea of a referendum.

Stepankov told reporters on Thursday that reports from throughout Russia indicate that people in many regions may ignore the referendum scheduled for April 11. The failure of the referendum will discredit the very idea of a free expression of the people's will, he added.

Economic Issues

Chernomyrdin Discusses Privatization, Economy

PM1002094193 Madrid ABC in Spanish 4 Feb 93 p 28

[Interview with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin by V. Starkov in Moscow; date not given]

[Text] Moscow—New Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin is a technocrat accepted by Yeltsin as a lesser evil following the pressures from the opposition and the Congress to correct the liberal course of the reforms of his predecessor, Yegor Gaydar. Chernomyrdin is no "kamikaze" of modernization like Gaydar, but a "technician" who is trying to give an important role to people like himself—technocrats and "entrepreneurs" in the old industries.

[Starkov] Nobody was expecting that you would be elected as prime minister.

[Chernomyrdin] I was surprised, too. In the government, we had decided to insist that the Congress leave Gaydar in command, so as I was preparing to go to work in the morning I could not even imagine that I would be chosen as prime minister. The president phoned me literally minutes before the morning session began, and told me that he was going to include my name on the ballot sheet. I am a weak person. [sentence as published] While I was working in the government, I headed the energy and fuel sector, which is certainly no walkover, and I understood where we were heading and how, but the fact is that that night, when I realized what had fallen on my shoulders, I could not get to sleep.

[Starkov] What will be the most difficult problem this year?

[Chernomyrdin] We must realize once and for all where we stand, because at meetings and conferences there are executives of all kinds who keep asking me: "What is happening? What are we going to do? Explain to us so that we will understand." I am an economic manager, and I fully realize that if the head of a regional administration does not understand what is happening, he simply cannot put our plans into practice.

[Starkov] And have you begun to realize where we stand?

[Chernomyrdin] Yes, although very little time has elapsed, but people keep harassing and pestering me: "Why does Chernomyrdin keep silent? Why does he not set out his program?" The previous government's mistake—and this was acknowledged by Gaydar himself—was not to explain to the people the measures which it was adopting. When Gaydar finally realized this, it was already too late... My reasoning is simple. Did we have a certain level of development? Yes, we did. Why did we have to lose that level of output, for instance? The changes should not have caused this recession which we are suffering.

[Starkov] What is your attitude to privatization?

[Chernomyrdin] Normal; my attitude to privatization is normal. Stores and every kind of repair shop should be privatized as soon as possible, but we are now doing very strange things. Enterprises which there is no need to privatize are being privatized. I am in favor of the market economy, but I wish to say once more that we will be unable to achieve anything if we do not work; if we do not impose strict discipline on ourselves. It is impossible to live like people in the West while we are working as people work in Russia. We must work, and we must do so intelligently. Idlers and spongers must be punished.

[Starkov] What measures do you intend to adopt in the social sphere?

[Chernomyrdin] The distribution of foodstuffs is the top priority, and we intend to start by stopping the rise in prices. In every country, the government intervenes to control prices.

[Starkov] We have been giving a great deal of thought to the slowdown in output. Is there any area in which output is rising?

[Chernomyrdin] Especially the gas industry, from which I come. It needs only to be given a slight push. We have tightened the screws in it, because we have not changed prices since April. Now they are under enormous pressure. One wrong step and there could be problems.

[Starkov] Do you intend to decontrol coal, oil, and electricity prices?

[Chernomyrdin] The prices of energy sources will be regulated. This is a state and worldwide policy. Gas, electricity, and water prices will never be decontrolled. They will always remain in the state's hands.

[Starkov] Are you taking the possibility of unemployment into account?

[Chernomyrdin] Many people are afraid that we will come to have a million or perhaps 10 million unemployed. We have unemployment now, too, but it is latent. There are factories which work for four days, and then we subsidize them for another two days. I tell the director: "There is no way to deal with your factory. But why not find other jobs for its employees?" In the West, roads, freeways, and bridges appeared during the Great Depression. While we are drowning in garbage and mud, enterprises' employees are standing idly by, receiving an average monthly wage.

[Starkov] You have said that Russia will not be a country of storekeepers. Frankly, many people take those words warily. Abroad, all the cities are full of storekeepers.

[Chernomyrdin] I realize that I said that very thoughtlessly at that time, and I have been harshly attacked because of it. But I wish to make it clear that I am in favor of every kind of company—state-owned, limited liability, privately owned, and private farms—but we need people trained to run those properties.

[Starkov] Are you asking Western economists for advice? Nobel Prize winner Vasiliy Leontyev advises that small enterprises be managed by foreigners. At first sight, it seems a strange idea, but Peter the Great did the same thing.

[Chernomyrdin] I would like to see your reaction if an American were appointed editor of your newspaper. I am often asked: What kind of reform do you support? Brazilian, U.S., or German? None of them. I support Russian reform. Of course, we should ask them for advice and learn from them, but that does not mean that we must copy everything blindly.

[Starkov] They used to call Gaydar "kamikaze," and he liked the epithet. In view of the situation, do you have the impression that you are a makeshift "substitute"?

[Chernomyrdin] No. Certainly, not everything will depend on me. Life itself will decide everything.

[Starkov] Do you believe that this will be a lengthy stage in your life?

[Chernomyrdin] In any event, it will be a very lengthy stage in my life, irrespective of how long it actually is. Of course, I can feel proud of having planted more than one tree, and perhaps I have left some mark, but I believe that it is no more than a prelude.

[Starkov] You dress smartly. Perhaps your journeys abroad have left their mark?

[Chernomyrdin] I have liked dressing fashionably since I was a child. Flared trousers became fashionable when I was studying at technical school. You are bound to remember. I was saving all the money I could; sometimes I did not even eat.

[Starkov] You are a representative of the administrative elite. What illusions have you had to abandon?

[Chernomyrdin] A good many. It is not easy for me, as a man accustomed to collective responsibility. A strong character is needed for this. Remember 1988. At that time, we were beginning our efforts to rid ourselves of patronage [patronato]—at least, to some extent. As a minister, I did not have the ability to abolish a department which I did not need at that time. I am grateful to Ryzhkov (Gorbachev's prime minister) because he believed in me. Even in that situation, under that powerful economic administrative system, we began to function better.

[Starkov] You mean, with the potential which we had at that time...

[Chernomyrdin] Of course. Why did we lose it? Now it will take many years to recover it. I support the private farmers, but I am opposed to the idea of giving land to everybody indiscriminately.

Chernomyrdin Interviewed on Yeltsin, Reforms

OW1002183193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1744 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Interview with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin by special correspondent Vyacheslav Terekhov; place and date not given; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Corr.[Correspondent]: It is often being said these days that the President meddles with the work of the government, that he is hovering over it too closely. Is that true?

Viktor Chernomyrdin: Not in the least. Moreover, I must thank him for letting me work normally. I'm not used to being ordered around, and so I'm grateful to the President for trusting me in everything. There are essential issues, of course, on which I have to consult him, and there are problems which should be discussed with parliament. I think there's nothing wrong with it.

As for the rumors to the effect that the President is hovering over us too closely, they are being spread around by those who wish to set the President and Prime Minister against each other. The President, far from meddling with my work, and that of the government in general, has given us a free hand in everything. I'm not a kid; I'm aware that we are responsible to the President as head of the executive branch. I know what I must do and what I am allowed to do. But I find it easy to work now. I have no obstacles. Whenever I make a mistake, the President sets it right, but I try to take care that this happens as rarely as possible.

Corr.: What has the new government been able to get done over the two months since it was formed? On what terms are you with your cabinet members?

V.C.: We needed time to understand better the processes currently taking place in Russia. Yes, we are just taking our first steps. Over the short period after the government was formed, I've come to understand my colleagues, and they, I hope, are beginning to understand me. This is particularly important since I'm a new person in the government. Many of the government ministers come from the same medium, they have the same ideology, similar characters and work styles, and have had similar kinds of education. I'm somewhat different from them in all those respects, especially as regards my work style: The way I plan my work depends on the results I expect to get. I can't stand any useless waffle, nor do I think meetings and conferences make any sense unless they pursue a clear purpose. I also hate handing out orders and instructions. I see each cabinet member as a major leader bearing the full responsibility for his particular area to the people, the state, and the President.

My colleagues and I understand each other now, and I think we will continue to do so in future as well.

We have to make a serious analysis of the causes of the present situation in the country. Last year the government made a good deal of mistakes because it was in a hurry, and was going by the trial and error method.

Corr.: Do you know how any specific mistakes made last year can be corrected?

V.C.: The crisis is unfortunately very deep. Those negative processes we see today, such as the sinking living standards and the falling production, were not caused by last year's mistakes alone.

Gorbachev's perestroyka, which was started with great vigor and enthusiasm, got bogged down because there was no efficient, well- considered mechanism for carrying out reforms. This was being done inconsistently, chaotically.

It was only in 1992 that an active transition to market economics started and real economic reforms began to be carried out, and that inevitably led to lower living standards. But we still have a long way to go before we have a market economy. No simple solutions are possible under the present circumstances, especially since we launched reforms without having well-trained personnel capable of working in a market economy. There is no simple solution, for example, to the demonopolization problem, because nearly every Russian enterprises enjoys monopoly in its own area. Nor can there be any uniform scheme for the introduction of private landownership. Various parts of Russia differ from each other so much that we can't build a market economy in exactly the same way any foreign country did or is doing now, whether it is Brazil, Romania, Germany, or the United States. We should borrow from those schemes what suits Russia.

The main task that faces the Russian government now is to carry out proper demonopolization, privatization, and division of enterprises. Considerable freedom of action in this endeavor should be given to regional authorities. This doesn't mean, however, that enterprises in the provinces would be under too much control. We need a mechanism, including an efficient taxation system, which would providing for optimum interaction between federal and regional bodies.

Corr.: What effect do the disagreements between the legislative and executive branches have on the government's work? What laws are necessary to create the mechanism you have just mentioned?

V.C.: Many of our laws are inadequate. Nor do I know of any law or decree which is not violated in one way or another. We have always been suffering from that. Some of our laws come out too late, but the main thing is that we don't need any legislation that will have to be amended in six months' time.

As for the disagreements between the legislators and the cabinet, I have already said in parliament that the government is a body which should cooperate with everybody. It should hold a centrist position. I am prepared to cooperate with both "Reds" and "Whites," both "right-wingers" and "left-wingers," in a word, with anyone who wishes to do something to revive Russia. The government should stick to its line and consistently carry out economic reforms jointly with all those who are really interested in them.

There's a lot of hard work to do. We can't go backwards. For this reason, we badly need unity in our society. I have insisted, and still do, on a moratorium on all congresses, meetings, forums, national and constituent assemblies, and so on, for at least a year. We have to be able to do practical work. We have no time for political squabbles.

Shumeyko Delivers Report to Government on 1992 Development

LD1102113993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1112 GMT 11 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow February 11 TASS—"Considerable positive changes have taken place in the country's economy over the past year," First Deputy Premier Vladimir Shumeyko told a Russian government meeting in the Kremlin on Thursday. He delivered a 45- minute report on the socio-economic development of Russia in 1992 and a government action programme for 1993.

Having stated that efforts to achieve macroeconomic stabilisation failed, Shumeyko said that 1992 saw the beginning of a direct implementation of a reform policy. The command-and-administer system in the economy was eliminated, the monetary system was kept intact, and stability in society was maintained on the whole, he pointed out.

Speaking about political aspects of the reform, Shumeyko described as one of major oversights in 1992 the fact that "efforts to shape a harmonious and effective vertical executive power system were to no avail". The struggle between the executive and legislative branches of power also have a negative effect on economic processes, he said.

"A further realisation of reform is impossible without coordinated actions of the government, the Central Bank of Russia, and the parliament," Shumeyko emphasised, suggesting the introduction of a "moratorium on pro-inflationary actions of the legislative and executive branches of power". In so doing, the first deputy prime minister said "curbing inflation is the major government priority for 1993".

The deputy premier admitted that the government made a serious error in 1992 by granting credits to all unprofitable businesses without exception.

He emphasised that it is inadmissible to provide credits for backward and ineffectual production plants and that a mechanism of bankruptcies should be introduced for them.

"A continuation of credit injections to all businesses would lead to hyperinflation, complete economic ruin, and a social outburst," Shumeyko said.

Touching upon the question of social by-effects in carrying out reforms, and stating a decline in the living standards of the population in Russia, Shumeyko said consumer prices grew 26-fold over the year, whereas incomes increased only ten-fold.

About a third of the population earned less than the subsistence wage which in December 1992 was about 4,000 roubles per capita.

"The year 1993 must become a period of transition to an active regulation of social policy and to the achievement of social security," Shumeyko stressed. He called for an urgent adoption of a package of social protection measures resultant even of an extension of the radical reform period or a certain increase in the budget deficit.

Shumeyko presented a 97-point government action plan to implement economic reform in 1993. The plan is aimed at achieving macroeconomic stabilisation, at pursuing a sufficiently rigid credit and monetary policy, at curbing inflation and sponsoring an active social policy.

Says Government Walking on 'Razor's Edge'

LD1102112993 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0900 GMT 11 Feb 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] We will have to walk along a razor's edge this year, First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko said in his speech to a sitting of the Russian Council of Ministers. On the one hand are persistent demands to imbue the reforms with social relevance—to halt the decline in production and support agriculture—while on the other hand lies the slide into hyperinflation. Last year, social funds and other measures perceptibly alleviated the situation. This year things are much more complicated [words indistinct].

Economics Minister Andrey Nechayev, who spoke next, defined the main levers, mechanisms, and priorities of a structural reorganization of the economy in 1993. He stressed, however, that there is little chance of the situation improving without delegation of responsibility for allocating resources in foreign economic activities and other areas of the economy. The new policy should be even more flexible. If not, we will destroy the potential that has been amassed.

1992 Economic Results 'Exceptionally Negative'

LD1102094893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0810 GMT 11 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 11 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—"Assessing the situation in 1992 as a whole, it cannot be called catastrophic but the processes which have taken place are exceptionally negative." This is stated in a 137-page report on the results of the socioeconomic development of the Russian Federation in 1992 which has been prepared by the Ministry of the Economy in Russia.

Overall in 1992 the national income generated on the territory of the Russian Federation fell in comparison with the previous year by 20 percent and the volume of industrial output fell by 18.8 percent, the report says.

The document states that "from the point of view of providing social guarantees and maintaining the standard of living, the transfer to a market economy has not been sufficiently well- prepared." It points out that the body of people taking advantage of the vagaries of the market to make super-high incomes has increased, while 28 percent of the population has found itself below the poverty line.

According to the ministry's report, in the period 1991-92 Russians started "to consume less" meat (from 75 to 61 kg a head a year); dairy produce (from 386 to 291 kg); fish products (from 20.3 to 13 kg); eggs (from 297 to 261 eggs); and vegetable oil (from 10.2 to 7 kg). Nor does the overall demographic situation inspire optimism: the population of Russia was 148.3 million at the start of 1993. "The fall in the birth rate and increase in the death rate have caused a negative natural population increase," the report says.

The final section of the report from the Ministry of the Economy notes that it is now "essential to give particular significance to financial stabilization measures, overcoming the danger of hyperinflation and selective support for industry."

Economics Ministry Presents 1992 Data

OW1002194793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1424 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the data of the Russian Ministry of Economics, the country's national income for 1992 fell by 20% as compared with the previous year, while the volume of industrial production fell by 18.8%. The conclusions were included in materials prepared by the ministry for the 11 February session of the Russian government.

The extraction of oil and gas condensate in 1992, the documents noted, totalled 398.8 million tons, some 62.4 million tons less than last year, for a decline of 13.5%.

The production of consumer goods fell by 15% by comparison with 1991: food products fell by 18%, durable goods by 14%, and the products of light industry by 19%.

The grain harvest for 1992 was, the ministry concluded, not bad. The total amount of grain obtained (by weight after processing) was 106.8 million tons, some 20% more than was harvested in 1991.

Retail prices for consumer goods and services, according to the ministry's figures, increased by 26 times; wholesale prices for industrial goods by 34 times; and purchase prices of agricultural produce by 10 times.

In the period from 1990 to 1992, the population's consumption of meat fell from 75 to 61 kilograms per person per year, milk products from 386 to 291, fish from 20.3 to 13.0, eggs from 297 to 261, and vegetable oil from 10.2 to 7.

Proceeding from the ministry's data, as of 1 January 1993, 18,800 retail trade enterprises (11% of the total), 4,500 food-related enterprises (3.2% of the total), and 11,000 consumer services enterprises (8.7% of the total) had been privatized.

Industrial Output Drops 23 Percent in Jan

LD1102092493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0856 GMT 11 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow February 11 TASS—Russia's industrial output dropped by 23 per cent in January as compared to the corresponding month of 1992, the Russian Statistical Board claims in its analytical document, handed out to Russian MPs here. Statisticians believe that this drop was to some extent due to the large number of holidays in the first ten days of the month.

Be what it may, there are also some improvements. The average daily output of the iron and steel and machine-building industries has increased. This is particularly true of the output of consumer goods.

According to the document, difficulties have arisen at the beginning of the year with the supply of food products to the population. The average daily output of two thirds of the foodstuffs has decreased as compared to January 1992, while the production of bread and bakery products has dropped by a whole third.

It is regrettable that goods worth 1.5 billion roubles were not manufactured due to stoppages and strikes. According to figures of the State Statistical Board, most telling losses of working time, caused by strikes, were recorded in Kemerovo and Sakhalin regions, in the Komi Republic, and in Krasnoyarsk territory.

And, finally, it is worth noting the growth of prices in January. Prices for 70 food products have gone up on the average by 25 per cent in the course of the month. Prices for meat, fish and dairy products have increased by 33-43 per cent.

Finance Ministry Reports on Budget

LD1102105593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0934 GMT 11 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow February 11 TASS—"The main task of Russia's economic policy in 1992 was to stabilise the financial situation in the national economy. However, this effort has fallen short of its target," says the Russian Finance Ministry's voluminous report, handed out to the participants of the meeting of the Russian Council of Ministers, called here today.

According to the document, by January 1, 1993, the consolidated budget had been executed to the amount of 4860.2 billion roubles in the revenue part (without revenues obtained from foreign economic transactions), including 2562.1 billion roubles of the federal budget. The expenditures amounted respectively to 5552.8 and 3562.9 billion roubles. The positive balance of foreign trade amounted to 42.9 billion roubles. The deficit of the consolidated budget ran into 641.9 billion roubles, including 957.9 billion roubles of the federal budget, which equals correspondingly to 4.3 and 6.4 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product.

The document notes that "the value added tax, introduced in 1992, accounted for most of the budget revenues. It provided 41.1 per cent of all the revenues to the consolidated budget, while the figure for the income tax amounted to 32.2 per cent".

"In conditions of the current economic crisis, which threatens to grow into a social and political crisis, the government's priority tasks are to stabilise the financial and monetary policy, to effect a structural reorganisation

of the economy and to ensure the population's social protection," the report says.

The credit and monetary policy should be implemented by the government joinly with the Central Bank of Russia. It must be aimed at toughening controls over the growth of the amount of money in circulation, at compensating the population's losses from inflation, at strictly limiting the central bank's financial assistance to enterprises. It is also necessary to "fence the Russian economic space off from the massive influx of money coming from the republics of the former USSR, which has a destabilising effect on monetary circulation," the report says.

Chernomyrdin Addresses Farmers' Congress

LD1002163493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1541 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksandr Dzyublo and Aleksey Filatov]

[Text] Moscow February 10 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin told a congress of the Association of Peasant (Farmer) and Agricultural Cooperatives that "farmers will develop and must be supported". At the same time the prime minister said he was not in favour of "campaigns like a new collectivisation drive".

In setting forth the agrarian concept of the government, the prime minister said he favoured equal conditions for all forms of economic management in the countryside, be it individual farmers, collective or state farms, or cooperatives.

Viktor Chernomyrdin believes that the state policy in the agrarian sphere has taken shape on the whole and it should not be changed radically. But certain correctives are of course in line. "In the next few days, a decision will be finalised on easy credits to peasant and peasant farms", and this is why "the Central Bank of Russia is completing work to determine the size of credit resources to be issued in loans at an easy interest rate of 25-30 per cent". As concerns credits for the spring time field work, they will be issued quite soon.

The prime minister told the congress that the government is also nearing completion of a resolution on the support for Russian farmers this year. In addition, he said, special programmes for training farmers and providing technical supplies, including from converted defence enterprises, will be implemented.

The state, according to Chernomyrdin, will increase assistance to those, who have decided to move from towns to villages in order to start farming. There are plans for covering from the state budget of up to 50 per cent of the cost of insuring new crops. The government, Chernomyrdin said, "supports the idea of creating cooperative peasant banks".

Viktor Chernomyrdin spoke in favour of amending and promulgating new laws reflecting reality and aiming at the perspective of the development of the farmer movement. This must cover, first of all, land problems and ensure reliable guarantees of effective work on land for the farmers.

"We are passing through a most difficult period in the life of the country, having embarked on the path of economic transformations not for the sake of fashion but responding to the call of life. The government will not go back on what it has begun. But everything must be done without undue haste and cataclysms" Viktor Chernomyrdin said.

Voices Concern Over Agriculture Situation

LD1002205293 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Report by D. Pugacheva; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Viktor Chernomyrdin expressed his concern over the situation in the agriculture to industrialists from Russia's krays and oblasts who were discussing the fundamentals of the national and industrial policy for 1993 at the Supreme Soviet. The head of the government stated that today enterprises have done virtually nothing for residents of the countryside who are in great need of agricultural machinery.

On the eve of the extended government sitting planned for tomorrow industrialists put forward their specific proposals. Such an initiative was approved by the premier. Viktor Chernomyrdin stressed that now it is simply impossible to grant credits to enterprises, though the state will support priority directions in industry. This government's line should be fully coordinated with the entire banking system. Prices for main fuels, some kinds of metals and bread, if necessary, will be regulated. The issue of insolvent enterprises has not been decided yet, but the premier noted that they will not be absolved.

Official Says Monetary Reform 'Out of the Question'

OW1002145393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1424 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Russian parliament's Commission for Budget, Taxes and Prices, Aleksandr Pochinok, said that for the moment, monetary reform is out of the question.

He told INTERFAX that a monetary reform can be carried out only when inflation is checked. Meanwhile, inflation can only be beaten when the production of competitive goods begins to grow, which is impossible without complete economic restructuring. The arms industries must be reoriented to the production of competitive consumer goods, he went on to say. It will take Russia several years of hard work to do so, he added.

Pochinok also said that the extension of credits to industrial enterprises and pension increases were secondary causes of inflation. "However, we have to extend loans to enterprises to save them from ruin," he said,.

The current rate of inflation stands at 30 per cent, he continued. "This is worse than all the forecasts, but this is a reflection of the actual situation," he said.

Kuzbass Miners Arrive in Moscow To Present Demands

OW1002175293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1700 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A delegation of miners from Kuzbass arrived in Moscow Wednesday [10 February] to present the government and the Supreme Soviet several demands on signing a tariff agreement for 1993 and on subsidies and social guarantees.

The delegation's leader, Chairman of the Independent Labor Union of Miners (ILUM) Vyacheslav Sharipov, said in an interview with INTERFAX that if they do not reach an agreement, Kuzbass will strike on March 1. The ILUM will discuss the issue of striking with mining labor collectives February 15-20.

Sharipov claimed that 99% of miners are in favor of striking.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Names New Deputy Chairman of Council of Ministers

LD1002180893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1204 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow, 10 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—At the recommendation of the chairman of the Council of Ministers, President Boris Yeltsin has appointed Aleksandr Zaveryukha as deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers, the Russian president's press service announced today.

Aleksandr Zaveryukha was born on 30 April 1940 in Orenburg Oblast's Novosergiyevskiy Rayon. In 1967, he graduated from the Orenburg Agricultural Institute. His speciality is that of an academic agronomist, and he is a candidate of economic sciences.

From 1958 until his present appointment, he worked in agriculture. Prior to his appointment as deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers, he worked as director general of the All-Russia Scientific-Production Association of the All-Russia Research Institute of Meat Livestock Breeding in Orenburg.

Aleksandr Zaveryukha has been elected as a people's deputy of the Russian Federation and a people's deputy of the oblast soviet.

Says State Support 'Vital'

LD1002140893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1352 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Dzyublo]

[Text] Moscow February 10 TASS—Aleksandr Zaveryukha, who was appointed Russian deputy prime minister for agriculture on Wednesday [10 February], believes that state support is vital for Russian agriculture and should include easy-term credits and reasonable taxation policy.

He told TASS that social problems are especially burning in the countryside at present and their gradual solution will create a completely different situation in Russia and will help solve food- supply problems.

Zaveryukha added that he stands for all types of property in the countryside.

[Moscow INTERFAX in English at 1942 GMT on 10 February adds the following:

["Aleksandr Zaveryukha, who was named Russian vice premier for agricultural issues by a presidential decree on February 10, feels that his appointment is due to support from agrarian deputies in parliament. In an interview with INTERFAX Wednesday [10 February] he said that he received the offer to join the cabinet long ago, but declined 'until the very last moment.' The last proposal, Zaveryukha said, was made by Boris Yeltsin and Viktor Chernomyrdin.

["The vice premier stated that he favors equality on all forms of ownership in agriculture. He believes the state must support agriculture in the areas of taxation, crediting, and resolving social problems.

["Appearing Wednesday at a congress of the Association of Farms and Farm Cooperatives, Zaveryukha announced his intentions to see that the resolution from the Second Russian Congress of People's Deputies on directing 15% of national revenues to rural social development be fulfilled.

["The vice premier said considers himself 'an ally of farmers.' If the farmers' movement had not been formed, Zaveryukha believes, the food problem would never be solved. He expressed his opinion that 'the countryside does not need a new revolution, it needs sound agrarian policy.'"]

New Council of Republics Speaker Opposes Early Elections

OW1002200093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1942 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] There is no guarantee that if the president, the head of the Supreme Soviet, and the chairman of the Constitutional Court reach an agreement on separation

of powers that it will not soon be violated. Veniamin Sokolov, who was elected chairman of the Supreme Soviet's Council on Republics Wednesday [10 February], stated this in an interview with INTERFAX.

He believes that such an agreement could not be stable, since the parties "have not yet reached common ground on the main issue." The main issue, Sokolov thinks, is the successful advancement of economic reforms.

Sokolov said that the meeting between the three branches of power will have results only if they find a compromised decision on the methods for advancing economic reforms, "which would enable them to solve two main problems—the preservation of state unity of the Russian Federation, and stopping accusations from people on the decline in production."

Sokolov regarded positively the readiness of the Russian president to, "under certain conditions," revoke his demands for the referendum. He also spoke against early elections of the executive and representative powers, stressing that the Supreme Soviet, in its third year of operation has only begun to develop professional approaches to resolving many issues." Replacing the deputy corpus now would negatively affect the situation in the country.

Workers' Movement Claims Yeltsin Violating Constitution

OW1002200993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1943 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Yeltsin's decrees have violated the country's existing Constitution more than 50 times, leader of the opposition Russian Workers' Movement [RWM], Viktor Anpilov and former head of the state security department of the USSR prosecuting office Viktor Ilyukhin said speaking at a news conference in Moscow on Wednesday [10 February]. Ilyukhin made himself known after instigating criminal charges against former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, blaming him for the breakup of the Soviet Union.

RWM leaders distributed copies of Yeltsin's draft decree which Anpilov said was prepared by "the Burbulis group" to be signed ahead of the 7th Congress of People's Deputies in December. According to the paper, the government was expected to impose a so-called "transitional period" starting at 5 a.m. on December 4, 1992 during which the Constitution was to operate only in parts "not contradicting the decree".

The Congress of People's Deputies, accused of "trying to pull off a constitutional coup," was to be suspended for a period of six months during which to hold a vote of confidence to the president and his decree.

Its preamble says the measure is caused by a mortal threat to the country's democratically-elected government from the revenge-seeking Communist Party bureaucracy.

RWM officials said Movement experts were planning to examine the authenticity of the document.

For his part, Anpilov spoke of the government's "plan for an unconstitutional coup being ready to be enforced at any moment".

Ministry Declares 29th CPSU Congress Unconstitutional

OW1002200593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1943 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Ministry of Justice announced the unconstitutionality and legal insolvency of the preparations for and the conducting of the 29th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) and the Second Special Congress of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation (CPRF).

In a statement distributed Wednesday [10 February] in Moscow the Justice Ministry points out that according to the Russian president's decrees from August 23 and November 6, 1991, the activities of the CPSU and the CPRF were first suspended, then banned. Their organizing structures were disbanded.

The constitutionality of the president's decrees banning the activities of the Russian and Soviet communist parties on the territory of the Russian Federation and disbanding their organizing structures was verified by the Russian Constitutional Court in a resolution from November 30, 1992.

The Constitutional Court also established that after the August, 1991, putsch the CPSU essentially dissolved and lost its status as an nationwide organization, and that organizationally, the CPRF was not formed as an independent political party. Hence, the Justice Ministry feels it is not legitimate to consider re-establishing the CPSU and the CPRF or suggest the legal succession of any organizations and their relationships.

Filatov Comments on Changes in President's Apparatus

MK1002130193 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 7, 14 Feb 93 (Signed to Press 9 Feb 93) pp 8-9

[Interview with Sergey Filatov, the Russian president's chief of staff, by Lyudmila Telen; place and date not given: "'Apparatus Captured' by the Democrats"]

[Text] "I will not give up Petrov," Boris Yeltsin said last spring, speaking of his chief of staff in response to the democrats' criticism of Petrov the "apparatchik." He

"gave him up" in the winter, soon after the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies. It was not just another dismissal, more a case of the president letting it be known that he is prepared for closer contacts with politicians close to Democratic Russia. It is no accident that Petrov was succeeded by Supreme Soviet First Deputy Chairman Sergey Filatov, who basically headed the democratic opposition to the speaker in parliament. All the indications are that the long-standing and hitherto unfulfilled dream of the president's political allies is becoming a reality: The apparatus is coming under their control. And in revolutions and perestroykas, the apparatus—experience shows—plays a role no less important than the post and telegraph system. On 8 February Boris Yeltsin signed an edict on improving the presidential system of power. Today Sergey Filatov, the Russian president's chief of staff, answers questions for MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI'S observer.

[Telen] Your predecessor ostentatiously kept his distance from politics, and said so in public many times. Your first statements in your new capacity show, on the contrary, that you remain an active figure on the political scene. Is this a deliberate stance, or old habits of the struggle? And what are you now—are you still a politician, or a civil servant?

[Filatov] It would have been easiest to say that now I am simply a civil servant and politics does not concern me...

[Telen] But you are unwilling to do that?

[Filatov] And unable. I believe that the post of chief of staff is simultaneously a political and a civil service post. That is true of any chief, even if he denies it verbally. The question is how to combine the two most usefully.

[Telen] "Political" meaning what? As I understand it, in your job you cannot pursue an independent political line.

[Filatov] No, of course not. But it is my duty to organize the administration's work in such a way that the president's political line is supported by intelligent programs and backed up by scientific formulations and authoritative information. But that is the very nature of politics.

[Telen] You have inherited the apparatus created by Yuriy Petrov, and many democratic politicians are talking about the need for a purge.

[Filatov] I am against that prospect.

[Telen] Do you have no prejudice against officials with a Central Committee or Council of Ministers background?

[Filatov] A person should know how to do his job professionally. Many of them—including people in that category—do know. Work with documents, paperwork, expert legal services, and suchlike purely "apparatus" work is not the easiest of trades.

[Telen] But there is another danger. In celebration of the fact that "one of us" has finally taken over the apparatus, the apparatus will be swamped by a torrent of politicians who count themselves among those who share your views, but who are not capable of hard office work.

[Filatov] You will have to take me at my word: I will try to ensure that only people with good professional qualifications and the right practical qualities join the president's administration. Although I think that for certain posts we should choose people whose political views coincide with the president's political convictions.

[Telen] Do you mean advisers?

[Filatov] Not only advisers. Anyone who will be involved in providing theoretical support for the president's line.

[Telen] This sphere used to be kept clear of the influence of the chief of staff. The president's chief ideologist was Gennadiy Burbulis. He formed a team of advisers, and he, basically, led them. As I understand it, you will now have to work with both Burbulis and Petrov. What is the aim of the reorganization you have devised?

[Filatov] As I have said, our first task is not simply to enlist powerful intellectual forces to cooperate with the president, but also, if I can put it like this, to get the work flowing. To that end, three analytical centers are being set up attached to the president's administration—for general policy, socioeconomic policy, and special presidential programs. These structures must be headed by people who are not only first-rate professionals, but who enjoy the president's confidence.

[Telen] Are there contenders?

[Filatov] There are. But I do not want to name them until a final decision is made. I can say one thing: They are well-known names.

[Telen] So analysts work with information and draw up programs in various areas. What else?

[Filatov] They help the president to formulate his view on a given proposal, and especially on the actions of other power structures. For instance, the government or the Supreme Soviet.

[Telen] Don't you trust the president's legendary intuition?

[Filatov] In politics you cannot rely on intuition alone, although it is true that thus far it has seldom let the president down. Analysis services should be ready to produce a quick and astute analysis of any political topic.

[Telen] Surely that is the best justification for further expanding the apparatus?

[Filatov] I am not prepared to discuss numbers yet. But there is no question of a large-scale expansion of the apparatus, on the contrary, the aim is to reduce it. I believe the analysis services will only be able to operate effectively if they have close links with authoritative scientific centers. For instance, I would regard Yegor

Gaydar's institute as the best support base for the socioeconomic center. Then the president will really be able to have confidence in his consultants' recommendations.

[Telen] But don't you think that in that case a proportion of the hard information will be withheld from the president? That is, instead of facts, he will be dealing with commentaries, which are tendentious by definition...

[Filatov] Theoretically, there is that danger. But there is also a way to neutralize it. To that end, an operational information center is being set up at the administration, and its reports will go direct to the president and to the analysis centers. They will be thematic reports: on, say, everything relating to the president himself, the Supreme Soviet, the government, the forthcoming referendum, and so forth. It will monitor in detail information on opposition movements and parties, their programs, their line in the Supreme Soviet...

Incidentally, this service will operate as a kind of press center—not only for the collection of information, but also its dissemination in the mass media. I don't believe our work should be shrouded in secrecy. What else but the lack of information gives rise to rumors about eminences grises and apparatus conspiracies?

[Telen] Will the administration's other structures be purely technical?

[Filatov] No. Another political component will be the directorate for work with the territories. It will have close links with the councils of heads of republics and heads of administrations.

[Telen] So it will take the place of the institution of president's representatives, which was abolished by the Seventh Congress?

[Filatov] No, the president's representatives will remain, and will cooperate with this directorate. But they now have no control functions... This service will also work with the body of deputies.

[Telen] Do you seriously believe you can organize this work? Do you not think that the confrontation is now insuperable? Especially when—by the president's will—you yourself, Bragin, Volkov, Yushenkov, and Shakhray, that is, his most devoted allies, are out of the parliamentary game. And then your personal relationship with Khasbulatov is not going to make your task any easier...

[Filatov] Did I say it was going to be easy? No way. But I have sufficient experience of work with various factions to be able to say confidently that dialogue is possible. If, of course, you conduct it on the basis of specific decisions, draft laws...

[Telen] But let us come back to those control functions. How does the president intend to exercise them?

[Filatov] Here too there will be changes. The administration's control service recently compiled a report for the president on the fulfillment of his edicts. What percentage do you think they gave as the rate of execution? Ninety-eight percent!

[Telen] Unbiased monitors...

[Filatov] It is not a question of bias. It is just that this percentage was calculated not on the basis of results, but according to the existence of documents published "in implementation" of the edicts. Which is also worthwhile. But we want to concentrate fundamental control functions mainly in the hands of the control directorate. Above this is the control-supervisory council, which will include representatives of the prosecutor's office, the heavyweight ministries, the union of governors, and so forth.

[Telen] Yet another bureaucratic superstructure which could rob the control directorate of any really autonomous powers?

[Filatov] The council is a consultative body and will only help to locate the trends that are emerging in society today and which need keen attention. Otherwise there is the danger that state monitors will become bogged down in individual grievances.

[Telen] In the past year the president's edicts have more than once been criticized for being legally inexact. Is it possible for you to safeguard Yeltsin against such mistakes?

[Filatov] I hope it will be, as soon as a rigorous procedure has been established for the passage of drafts of all presidential documents, not only edicts. They should undergo an expert legal study before they ever reach the president's desk.

[Telen] How is your personal relationship with him structured? Do you have a set time for meeting, or do you always have to make an appointment through the president's aides?

[Filatov] We have a specific time for meeting, plus a direct- line telephone on which I can always contact the president. I think our business relationship is one of total trust.

Military & Space Issues

Moscow To Withdraw Troops From Arctic Regions

LD1002222793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2201 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Anufriyev]

[Text] Arkhangelsk February 11 TASS—Russia will withdraw its air-defence troops from the Novaya Zemlya and Franz Jozef Land archipelagoes in the Arctic, the

command of the Russian air-defence troops stationed in Arkhangelsk told a news conference on Wednesday [10 February].

The command said the move is part of the programme of reduction of the Russian Armed Forces, adding that Russia has neither potential nor money to keep the previous air-defence system.

Unions, Parties Warn Army on Verge of 'Social Explosion'

LD1002204493 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 10 Feb 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] There was more than enough criticism of Minister Grachev's activities at today's meeting devoted to the problem of reforms in the armed forces. This is the life of a politician: one moment it is thunderous applause, another moment it is impartial remarks.

[Correspondent S. Sokolova] Today at a news conference, Russia's Movement for Democratic Reforms, the independent trade union of servicemen, the "Shchit" Union, and others warned journalists that at present the armed forces are on the verge of a social explosion. At the briefing, it was also said that, until we have a military doctrine, there can be no reform in the army. But the administrative terror of Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev against officers who are not to his liking or, say, differently minded, will soon reach its critical point. Here is just one example: recently, Colonel Zhilin, the editor in chief of the "Army of Russia" military newspaper, was fired.

[Begin recording] [V.Moskovichenko, chairman of the Moscow branch of the "Shchit" Union] It turns out that he was fired by ... [sentence unfinished as heard] We are reading an excerpt from the order—he was under the subordination of the Air Force Commander in Chief Deynekin—it says: fired and in brackets it says: on Grachev's personal instruction.

[Sokolova] What does Grachev want to achieve by this?

[Moskovichenko] I think he wants to achieve unquestioning obedience from a proportion of the armed forces remaining under his subordination in order to tackle some specific tasks. Just look, yet again the army is being dragged into ethnic conflicts. [end recording]

Defense Ministry Releases Military Recruitment Data

OW0902171593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Land troops had the highest level of recruitment in the Russian Armed Forces; the Western Division alone received more than 6,800 people, or over 70% of the number expected to join military service this year. The Defense Ministry press service reports that airborne troops received 1,515 volunteers, filling about half the vacant positions.

The percentages of volunteers distributed across military districts are as follows: the Urals district had 36.5%, Leningrad [as received] district—27%, Privolzhskiy—15%, Sibirskiy—7.8%, Far East—3.2%, Moscow—1.5%, and Northern Caucasus—0.8%. Among the fleets the Northern Fleet received the highest number of recruits at 3.3%.

The press service believes this data shows that "things are going better in those regions, where there are more stable social circumstances and better conditions for service."

There was a significant number of female military volunteers. The most popular sector among them, according to the Defense Ministry, was airborne troops, which had over 700 new recruits in the beginning of February. Almost all the "women's" positions have been filled (telephone operators, nurses, telegraph operators, and so on).

The vast majority of the women volunteering for service were single. Most preferred such positions as driver and mechanic- driver, and in fleets, the position of marine.

Cosmos-2233 Launched From Plesetsk Cosmodrome

LD0902142893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1349 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow, 9 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—Another artificial Earth satellite, Cosmos-2233, was launched today from Plesetsk cosmodrome by a Cosmos satellite vehicle.

The satellite carries scientific apparatus for continuing space research.

The satellite has been placed in an orbit with the following parameters:

—initial period of revolution, 104.8 minutes;

—apogee, 1021 kms;

—perigee, 972 kms;

—orbital inclination, 82.9 degrees.

Besides scientific apparatus, the satellite carries a radio system for the precise measurement of orbital elements and a radiotelemetry system for transmitting to earth data about the work of the instruments and scientific apparatus.

The apparatus on board the satellite is working normally.

The coordinating and computing center is processing the incoming information.

Media Issues

DEN Promises More Disclosures When Yeltsin Files Suit

MK0902100793 Moscow DEN in Russian No. 5, 7-13 Feb 93 (signed to press 4 Feb) p 1

[Unattributed report: "...That Ye Be Not Judged!"]

[Text] It has come to our knowledge that President B. Yeltsin intends to take the newspaper DEN to court for publishing the text of his confidential conversation with former U.S. President G. Bush.

All the indications are that the item touched a nerve. And this is no surprise—the text bears eloquent witness that Russian domestic and foreign policy is subordinate to Washington's edicts, and presents in a poor light both B. Yeltsin himself and his boyish protege Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev. What price the Russian president's sycophantic remark to G. Bush: "You asked me to keep Kozyrev in his job, and I carried out your request"!..

Yet the contents of the item in question have already received official confirmation. The Americans did not deny that the appropriation of an additional sum of at least $400 million for the destruction of Russia's nuclear arms was indeed discussed. According to THE WASHINGTON POST, the U.S. Administration will have to draw serious conclusions about a leak at such a high level, whose implications speak for themselves.

We will await impatiently the court investigation, during which we are prepared to make public many other, equally convincing documents confirming the betrayal of national interests by Russia's present political regime. We hope that B. Yeltsin will make available to the court his own version of the transcript of his conversation with G. Bush.

Press and Information Minister Interviewed

MK0902084493 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 6 Feb 93 p 2

[Report on interview with Mikhail Fedotov, Russian press and information minister, by Mikhail Gurevich: "One Head of the 'Double-Headed Mikhail'"; place and place not given; boldfaced passages are comments by Gurevich]

[Excerpts] [Gurevich] Where did these handcuffs in your office come from?

[Fedotov] One of my former students gave them to me. After graduating, he worked in Zlatoust as a police investigator, and one day he was asked to come to Moscow. He called me and said: "I'd like to drop in. You were my teacher, and I greatly admire you." He gave me the handcuffs, and I hung them up specially on the lamp in my office. I usually tell everyone that they are for people who break the law.

Recently Yegor Yakovlev, who had decided to revive the publication of OBSHCHAYA GAZETA ["General Newspaper"], got his friends and like-minded colleagues together for a meeting. Mikhail Fedotov was asked to preside over that meeting, to which he replied: "I have long thought of myself as a general lawyer for all the journals." Fedotov therefore regards the Civic Union statement—that the appointment of a man representing Democratic Russia as press and information minister "immediately creates an unbalanced situation"—as inaccurate, to put it mildly. He has not attended a single Democratic Russia congress (he has never been invited), nor has he ever been affiliated with any organizations of that kind. Three years ago, however, he ran for election as people's deputy on a Democratic Russia ticket, but failed, giving way to Boris Zolotukhin, his colleague, friend, and fellow-thinker. He also ran as Democratic Russia's only candidate for the Constitutional Court, but was not elected that time either.

Five years ago, three legal experts—Yuriy Baturin, Mikhail Fedotov, and Vladimir Entin—drew up a draft USSR law on the press and other media. [passage omitted]

At the "second Nuremburg trial"—the Constitutional Court hearings on the "CPSU case"—Mikhail Fedotov acted for the Russian president. During one of the many days of hearings, comrade Ligachev gave his testimony. "Every one of you here," Yegor Kuzmich [Ligachev] triumphantly told his opponents in court, "was also a member of the CPSU." Fedotov responded: "I wasn't." Ligachev paused for a while and then said: "Ah yes, only the very best were admitted to the party."

[Gurevich] Many people are amazed at how you rose to prominence without being a member of "the vanguard of the working class."

[Fedotov] I achieved everything by hard work. I did not hold any administrative posts. I went through all the stages, from an ordinary college instructor, and before that, from a reporter at the VECHERNYAYA MOSKVA information department to a writer for the newspaper NA BOYEVOM POSTU ["On Combat Post"], where I spent two years running around police stations, going along on police raids, and writing about OBKhSS [Organization for Combating Thefts of Socialist Property] officers and criminal police inspectors.

In 1972 I graduated from university, and the academic council gave me a letter of recommendation for postgraduate school. It would have been foolish to miss the opportunity, but I made one condition: I would enroll only if the subject of my thesis could be "Freedom of the Press—a Constitutional Right of Soviet Citizens." Yet when I said in 1976 that we needed a law on the press, that the mass media should regulate themselves and have a program of their own, I was told: "We have only one program—the CPSU program."

[Gurevich] Since you brought up the subject of the CPSU—of course, it is past history now—but what do you think about the Constitutional Court's decision?

[Fedotov] I regard it as a compromise—a compromise solution that was preprogrammed at the time when the Constitutional Court itself was being formed on the principle of political representation so that all political factions would be represented in it. A national football team should consist of the country's best players, not have one player from Spartak, one from Dinamo, one from Metallist, and so forth.

[Gurevich] Or one rugby player, one fencer....

[Fedotov] Likewise, the Constitutional Court should include the country's best lawyers. I very much regret that, because of the narrow age brackets, many fine lawyers and people of high integrity have been left out. Therefore any nonpolitical case is examined calmly, while a political one immediately transforms the court into a mini-parliament, with heated debates over who is better represented—the "democrats" or the "communists." To my mind, it would be more reasonable to have a system whereby court members were delegated from different branches of power. They used to say it was a must to have representatives from the autonomous regions. If a lawyer is good, would he defend the interests of the autonomous regions any less well if he comes from Moscow rather than Yakutia? Similarly, if a lawyer is bad, it makes no difference where he comes from. I may be running the risk of incurring [Constitutional Court Chairman] Zorkin's anger, but the Constitutional Court has unfortunately not yet become the elite organ of judicial authority. This has yet to come.

[Gurevich] What do you think will be the outcome of the hearings on the National Salvation Front case?

[Fedotov] I think that the case should eventually be dropped, because the president has said that his earlier decision is invalid. If the court rules the president's decree unconstitutional and therefore null and void, the decree will be doubly invalid. This would be as absurd as sentencing a person to death twice.

[Gurevich] In the United States, though, some particularly notorious criminals get up to 600 years in prison by having their sentences run consecutively.

[Fedotov] In that event, if the constitutionality of decisions that have already been annulled has to be verified, the court would put itself in a very dangerous situation. If the National Salvation Front case is not dropped, the court will simply be inundated with petitions that make no legal sense. The lawmaker does have the right to grow wiser. [passage omitted]

[Gurevich] That idea should be suggested to someone like Aksyuchits.

[Fedotov] There are many other people who want the August events to be declared unconstitutional. A petition concerning some of Yeltsin's decrees issued during the time of the putsch is already waiting in court. We should move forward and allow the Constitutional Court to operate normally. There has already been a suggestion that all of the president's decrees should be contested in court. For one thing, this would block the activity of the Constitutional Court for the next millennium. Second, it would not give the president any peace, because instead of running the country, he would have to spend all his time writing replies and fighting off complaints. [passage omitted]

[Gurevich] All the Supreme Soviet resolutions could be checked to see whether they are constitutional, too.

[Fedotov] That's right. If you read the Constitution, you will see that the Supreme Soviet Presidium does not have the powers that it has in practice appropriated. [passage omitted]

[Gurevich] Here is a question for a press minister: SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, PRAVDA, DEN and other such publications are breaking all laws and constitutions, calling for public reprisals, printing the manifestos of all sorts of scum, and making insulting statements—not to mention the criminal rags that are sold in underpasses. Why have these papers not been banned yet?

[Fedotov] This is up to the State Inspectorate for the Protection of Freedom of the Press. Our ministry has registered only the central press, but we do not yet have a special directorate to defend the freedom of the press that could monitor and prosecute those publications that break the law. Unfortunately, there are very many such publications.

[Gurevich] Then what are you waiting for?

[Fedotov] I cannot set everything up at once. Moreover, we need highly qualified lawyers, and what kind of salary can I offer them? Run-of-the-mill lawyers working for private businesses today are getting up to 100,000 [a month]. All in good time. We shall soon be circulating a letter to all editorial offices saying something like this: "Dear colleagues, this is to remind you that there is a Law on the Press and that it must be observed." Once this warning has been served, we shall start a war—according to all the rules of martial-legal art.

[Gurevich] You are in charge not only of the newspapers, radio and television, but also of other printed matter. We have always had paper shortages, but publishing houses today are unashamedly printing money-making books while subscribers have to wait for years to receive the volumes they ordered.

[Fedotov] We need a federal program to support book publishing, but in its present shape it does not satisfy me. We shall be implementing and revising it at the same time. Its initial premise was wrong, being written from the point of view of the publisher, not the consumer. University libraries should be receiving money, for

example, to order and buy textbooks. It is the consumer—the reader—not the manufacturer that should be subsidized. [passage omitted]

In addition, the newspaper subsidy system should be reviewed. Subsidies should be like a prize, in other words tied to specific conditions, like IMF loans. Newspapers must cut their costs, and then we shall give them not only money, but also an economic survival strategy. Lists of publications receiving subsidies should be published. Giving subsidies away like feed to fatten cattle is simply throwing money out the window. It is even more dangerous, however, to give subsidies as payment for "loyalty." The money does not belong to Yeltsin or Khasbulatov or myself—it is the taxpayers' money. [passage omitted]

Supreme Soviet

Yeltsin Submits START II Treaty for Ratification

OW0902165393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Tuesday [9 February] President Boris Yeltsin of Russia submitted the Start 2 Treaty signed by the Russian and U.S. Presidents on January 3 to the Parliament for ratification. His views in parliamentary debates on the Treaty will be represented by Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Defense Minister Pavel Grachev.

Deputy Chairman of the Parliamentary Defense and Security Committee Aleksandr Piskunov told INTERFAX that a schedule of parliamentary hearings on this issue had been submitted to Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov. Piskunov said that the Parliament's Presidium would meet on February 22 to discuss the package of documents on START 2.

Reportage on 9 Feb Parliamentary Hearings

Khasbulatov on Industrial Policy

OW0902205093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1959 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Ruslan Khasbulatov declared that this year should be devoted to the correction of mistakes made in industrial policy. "Today nobody doubts that 1992 was a complete downfall," he declared on Tuesday [9 February] addressing parliamentary hearings.

Ruslan Khasbulatov believes that a recession of production will continue this year. However, in his words, there is an opportunity to slow the recession in the second half of the year to 25-26%. "If the recession reaches 30% it will be a complete failure, and the Prime Minister understands this quite well," pointed out Ruslan Khasbulatov.

He expressed the hope that industrialists "will find common language with the present government."

The head of parliament stands for a correction of present tax policy which "is far from perfect." At the same time he underlined that it will be difficult to force the government to change the tax system because those people who implemented tax policy last year still occupy their offices in the cabinet.

Central Bank Chief on Expenditures

OW0902134593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1322 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian Central Bank chairman Viktor Gerashchenko said in parliament on Tuesday [9 February] that, although this year's budget deficit has been set at 3.5 trillion rubles, an additional expenditure has also been planned of six trillion rubles.

Gerashchenko rejected accusations to the effect that the Central Bank last year granted excessive credits to the Russian economy. He said the Central Bank, via commercial banks, provided credits to a total of 2.8 trillion rubles, doing so "at the request of the government and with the consent of parliament."

Supreme Soviet Sixth Session Resumes After Recess

LD1002095793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0834 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow February 10 TASS—The sixth session of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet resumed its work after a short parliamentary recess. The houses will have separate sessions today.

Deputies will discuss the outcome of the Commonwealth of Independent State summit held in Minsk on January 22, the procedure of the implementation of the law concerning the fundamentals of taxation system in the Russian Federation and consider a number of draft laws.

Chernomyrdin on Energy Prices

LD1002153893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1452 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Aleksey Tabachnikov]

[Text] Moscow February 10 TASS—"Prices can and should be regulated and we will do it," Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said on Wednesday [10 February] at a joint meeting of the parliamentary faction "Industrial Union" and the Committee on Industry and Energy of the Supreme Soviet.

At the same time, he emphasised, far from applying to all commodities, regulation will primarily affect gas and electricity. "In the foreseeable future we will not be able to forgo it and go over to free prices in this sector," Chernomyrdin continued.

Speaking about the possibility of indexing of circulating assets of enterprises, he noted that this question has already become a "philosophical" issue because "we have been late with this measure by one year and it is too late to carry out indexation." In this connection he emphasised that credits, especially those on easy terms, will now be extended to select clients and only to priority sectors, areas and enterprises, crucial for the country's economy.

Parliament Chamber Refuses To Convene Early Congress

LD1002135493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1329 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow February 10 TASS—The House of Nationalities of the Russian parliament voted down a proposal of a group of deputies to convene a Congress of People's Deputies before the referendum on the basics of a new Russian constitution in order to ban it and announce new elections in Russia.

The group proposed to adopt a corresponding address to the Russian leaders, but the House ruled that now that the president, the parliament speaker and the chief justice have agreed to discuss the necessity of the referendum, the address is inexpedient.

On Thursday [11 February], Boris Yeltsin, Ruslan Khasbulatov and Valeriy Zorkin will debate the problem.

Council of Republics Speaker Opposes Early Elections

OW1002200093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1942 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] There is no guarantee that if the president, the head of the Supreme Soviet, and the chairman of the Constitutional Court reach an agreement on separation of powers that it will not soon be violated. Veniamin Sokolov, who was elected chairman of the Supreme Soviet's Council on Republics Wednesday [10 February], stated this in an interview with INTERFAX.

He believes that such an agreement could not be stable, since the parties "have not yet reached common ground on the main issue." The main issue, Sokolov thinks, is the successful advancement of economic reforms.

Sokolov said that the meeting between the three branches of power will have results only if they find a compromised decision on the methods for advancing economic reforms, "which would enable them to solve two main problems—the preservation of state unity of the Russian Federation, and stopping accusations from people on the decline in production."

Sokolov regarded positively the readiness of the Russian president to, "under certain conditions," revoke his demands for the referendum. He also spoke against early elections of the executive and representative powers, stressing that the Supreme Soviet, in its third year of operation has only begun to develop professional approaches to resolving many issues." Replacing the deputy corpus now would negatively affect the situation in the country.

Khasbulatov Restates Opposition to Referendum

PM0902171793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Feb 93 First Edition p 1

[ITAR-TASS report: "Seminar: Laws Not Being Implemented, Much Less Edicts"]

[Text] The main reason for the political instability in Russia is the crisis within the executive and not the conflict between the parliament and the government, Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, said, speaking in Moscow at a seminar involving chairmen of soviets of people's deputies of all levels. According to him, the public is regrettably not devoting attention to the fact that two governments have taken shape in Russia—the president and his administration and the prime minister and his cabinet.

The result of the rivalry between the two executive branches of power is that due attention is not being paid to implementation of the laws. Khasbulatov pointed out that one-third of the Supreme Soviet's laws are not being carried out, and the figure is even greater for the president's edicts.

At the same time abolishing the institution of the presidency may bring even greater instability. Therefore, the speaker noted, this institution must not be abolished, but the role of the federal government increased. He described as ideal the following procedure: The president submits his candidacy for prime minister to the Supreme Soviet, the prime minister then forms his cabinet and submits it to parliament for approval. In the future the government would be accountable to parliament alone.

Stressing that the present system reinforces autocratic tendencies within society and poses a threat to democratic gains, Khasbulatov pointed out that hopes of political stability must be pinned not on individuals but on the strengthening of democratic institutions. If necessary I myself am willing to quit big-league politics, he said.

"Now is not the time to hold a referendum on the fundamental principles of a new constitution since that will pose a threat to the integrity of the Federation,"

Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov said at the seminar of soviet chairmen of all levels that opened in Moscow today.

Khasbulatov indicated that provisions regarding the new state system have already been constituted within the existing Constitution, this being the result of numerous democratic amendments made over two and a half years to the Fundamental Law (on human rights, private ownership, the principles of separation of powers, and so on).

According to Khasbulatov, it is hard to predict the results of a referendum at the moment. However, it is already clear that including 10-12 questions on the ballot papers will alienate the population from taking part in this event. At the same time one cannot agree with the suggestions that it is sufficient to put forward 1-2 questions for discussion since that would mean deviating from the decisions adopted by the last congress.

If the referendum does go ahead, in the speaker's opinion, the question of early reelections of both the president and the corps of deputies in April 1994 should be included without fail. He considers the fears that there will be a power vacuum if this occurs to be groundless since the previous president can keep his powers until a new president takes office at the first session of a newly elected parliament.

Regional Affairs

Buryatia Sets Up Joint Enterprise With Serbian Partner

LD1102095793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0600 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] Ignoring UN sanctions, Buryatia is setting up a joint enterprise for the production of railroad cars with Gosa, the well known Serbian firm. A founding agreement on this was signed during a visit to Yugoslavia by Vladimir Ivanov, minister of foreign economic links and international relations of the former autonomy, and representatives from the republic's union of industrialists and entrepreneurs.

Power Cut To Drive Disgruntled Miners Out of Vorkuta Mine

OW0902215093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2002 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Tuesday [9 February] a conflict situation occurred at Komsomolskaya mine belonging to association Vorkutaugol (republic of Komi). 34 mining workers of one of the sections refused to come to the surface. They demanded to re-calculate their wages for January; they want to receive 200,000-210,000 rubles instead of 180,000-185,000 rubles a month.

The mine's administration assessed the situation at Komsomolskaya as an emergency (there are two times more people in the long face than needed in accordance with norms of security—INTERFAX) and ordered to implement a plan to liquidate the emergency situation. Power supply and gas protection were cut off; a detachment of mining rescuers was sent to the place of incident.

The administration of the mine declared that the cost of services of mining rescuers and losses for idle time of the section and of two passages of the mine which were stopped due to the local cut off of power supply will be compensated at the expense of wages of the strikers. Workers announced their intention not to leave the mine until their demands are satisfied.

North Ossetia-Ingushetia Conflict Zone 'Under Control'

LD0902145993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1359 GMT 9 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz February 9 TASS—Search for those reported missing and the unconditional release of hostages are the main terms to be included into a package of documents which is now being prepared for a regular round of talks between the North Ossetian and Ingushi plenipotentiary delegations.

According to the temporary administration in the region, the delegations are expected to meet in Kislovodsk on February 15. The talks are being held through the mediation of representatives from Dagestan and Stavropol territory.

The situation in North Ossetia and Ingushetia is fully under control of the Russian peace-keeping forces, the state of emergency being strictly observed, TASS was told by temporary administration spokesman.

However, criminological situation in the conflict zone remains rather tense. Shootings in residential areas have become more frequent. A mobile group of the Russian Interior Ministry was fired from ambush by unidentified persons in the settlement of Sleptsovskaya of Ingushetia's Sunzhenskiy district. No casualties were reported.

Over the past twenty-four hours more than 3,000 motor cars were inspected. As a result, dozens of firearms units, combat grenades, explosives and hundreds of cartridges were confiscated.

A Russian Interior Ministry group works day and night searching for the missing and hostages. As of today, there are 85 missing people officially registered in the conflict zone, of which 83 in Ingushetia and two in North Ossetia.

State of Emergency Reinforced

LD0902213293 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Major General Aleksandr Kotenkov, head of the interim administration on the territories of the North Ossetian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Ingush Republic, today signed a decree on regulating the state of emergency regime in the area of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict. In accordance with the document, the peacekeeping forces are required to take measures to reinforce the state of emergency regime in Prigorodnyy, Promyshlennyy, Sovetskiy, Leninskiy, and Pravoberezhnyy Rayons. In the Ingush Republic, the state of emergency regime is to be reinforced in the Nazranovskiy Rayon. Instructions have been given to lift the curfew as of 10 February in North Ossetia, except for the rayons and locations listed in the decree, as well as in Malgobekskiy and Sunzhenskiy Rayons of Ingushetia.

Curfews Modified

LD1002130093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1126 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, 10 Feb—It was relatively calm in North Ossetia and Ingushetia in the past 24 hours. As of today, the state of emergency has been reinforced in some localities there in accordance with the order of Major General Aleksandr Kotenkov, head of the Interim Administration. At the same time, the curfew has been lifted from 10 February on the territory of the North Ossetian SSR, except for Prigorodnyy rayon; it has also been lifted in the Malgobekskiy and Sunzhenskiy rayons of the Ingush Republic. In the meantime, the crime situation remains difficult in the emergency zone, according to the information provided by the Interim Administration Staff. This is due to the fact that the population of the North Caucasian region has at its disposal over 150,000 firearms, that the exchange of hostages has been mutually stopped, and illegal military structures have not been disbanded in North Ossetia and Ingushetia.

To prevent the smuggling of arms, explosives and poisonous substances to North Ossetia and Ingushetia, militia detachments are now carrying out stricter examination of freight and hand baggage in the carriages of passenger trains and also at the "Vladikavkaz" and "Ingushetia" airports. In the past 24 hours in the area of the state of emergency of the operational and investigative group of the Russian Interior Ministry, a total of 15 firearms and dozens of grenades, more than 1,000 items of ammunition, and 8 radio sets have been seized.

According to a report by the headquarters of the North Ossetian civil defense, rescue work is continuing in the area of the Rokskiy pass. The Transcaucasus road up to the northern tunnel entrance has been cleared and today the first reinforced motor vehicles and also special equipment for the further clearing of the rail tracks have started moving along it. Powerful bulldozers and tractors began work on digging out a convoy of motor vehicles from Armenia which was forced to a halt by bad weather. Thirty-one dead bodies have been dug up from under the snow.

Chechnya Seeks Sovereignty To Increase Prosperity

PM1002144193 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Feb 93 p 1

[Viktor Shirokov report: "What is Chechnya's Position?"]

[Text] "In the Caucasus, of course!" the reader who knows his geography will say, shrugging his shoulders. And he will be right, in terms of "geology-mineralogy." But what about the sociopolitical and economic aspect?

"Chechnya's position is that it intends to stay with Russia in a single economic and ruble area, in order to integrate our mutual interests in accordance with the aspirations of both countries' peoples." So said Yaragi Mamodayev, first vice premier of the Chechen Republic, at a press conference held—now traditionally—in the PRAVDA editorial office.

The "shuttling" by Chechnya's top officials to Moscow, which began last year, seems to have started bearing fruit. Various versions of a future treaty on the mutual delegation of powers are being discussed both in Chechnya itself and in Russian government circles, and experts are working furiously. Not just the information blockade but also the financial blockade around the North Caucasus republic has been broken—a decision has been adopted on the allocation of around 2.5 billion rubles in cash, mainly to pay pensioners.

"For us Chechnya's sovereignty is not an end in itself," Mamodayev said. "It should be implemented for the sake of raising the living standards and the prosperity of all the republic's citizens irrespective of their nationality. The economic agreements which we are now preparing with the Russian side must therefore be mutually advantageous. Our autonomy must not irritate anyone, since it is not directed against a single country, and it is particularly not directed against Russia, to which we are bound by a single historical destiny. It is no accident, incidentally, that the draft treaty envisages dual citizenship..."

Far East Military Helicopter Pilots Prepare for UN Duty

OW1102012693 Khabarovsk Radio Khabarovsk Network in Russian 0945 GMT 10 Feb 93

[From the "Kray News"]

[Text] As is generally known, Russian airborne troops have acquitted themselves well with the United Nations peacekeeping forces in Yugoslavia. Not long ago there was an item in the newspapers reporting on the rotation

of units. Russian aviators are also preparing to join the ranks of the peacekeeping forces, specifically helicopter pilots of the Far East Military District. This is what Major General of Aviation Vyacheslav Oleynik, commander of DVO [Far East Military District] aviation, said to Valeriy Solntsev, Far East correspondent for KRASNAYA ZVEZDA.

[Begin Solntsev recording] In fact, at this moment there are 22 MI-8 helicopter crews ready to work under the aegis of the United Nations in Yugoslavia and Mozambique. This does not mean that all of them will go abroad. The exact number of crews required is still unknown at the moment. That is why a part of the flying personnel are prepared as backups, in case some fall ill or in case unforeseen personal situations arise.

In the main, these are aviators who have gone through the severe flight school in the fiery skies of Afghanistan and who are used to risks. Crew commanders have no less than 3,000 flying hours, and all of them are first class military pilots, real masters of their trade. Despite the fact that among Russian helicopter pilots preparing for flights in Africa under the aegis of the United Nations are officers with combat experience, they will not be taking part in combat. Their mission is to transport UN observers, deliver food and medicine to various points in Mozambique, and evacuate the sick. [end recording]

Nuclear Power Means Cheap Electricity in Far East

OW1102112593 Khabarovsk Radio Khabarovsk Network in Russian 0945 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Interview with Nikolay Anatoliyevich Arzamasov, manager of the Dalenergomontazh trust, by unidentified reporter; from the Kray News—live]

[Text] [Reporter] Nikolay Anatoliyevich, many people are experiencing difficulties today. I would like to know what projects you are building?

[Arzamasov] Well, we [Dalenergomontazh Trust—the Far East Power Engineering Facilities Installation Trust] are based in the Far East region, including Amur Oblast, Khabarovsk Kray, Maritime Kray, Sakhalin Oblast, Kamchatka Oblast, and Magadan Oblast. All power engineering work in the Far East is done by us. We have many general contracting organizations but we are the only organization building thermal power stations. Without us power engineering would come to a standstill.

Last year we had to do a lot of work in Khabarovsk Kray. It was an extensive program of work with heat pipelines in Khabarovsk and preparation of the city for winter, which included the preparation and overhaul of thermal power station for the autumn and winter period. In Amursk the fourth boiler was reconstructed. Many thought the work would not be completed but it was completed by 22 December which is Power Engineering Workers Day. It is running today.

This year a very extensive program is envisaged in Khabarovsk Kray. First of all this will begin in Komsomolsk-na-Amure where thermal power will be hooked up. A station is presently in operation in Nagayevo. Gas in Sakhalin is available only in limited quantities and it is very expensive, so the station there needs to be converted to coal. The program in Khabarovsk City is very extensive. It includes reconstruction and replacement of the heat pipelines, reconstruction of the No.9 boiler at the TETs [heat and electric power station] No.1—a really big job—assembly of the new No.9 boiler at the TETs No.2, and enormous work which will begin this year on the No.4 power unit of the TETs No.3.

Today all of this is linked with the sporadic and difficult financing of this work, but the city cannot live without these projects.

[Reporter] Is the Kray or the center financing this work?

[Arzamasov] Well, centralized funding ended practically two years ago. The center is not financing anything, although last year the Kray managed to get 1 billion rubles [R] from the Russian budget and this year the government has signed an allocation of R6.4 billion toward financing part of the projects in Khabarovsk. But taking inflationary processes into consideration this is not a great deal of money. Nevertheless, assembly of the boiler of this power unit has begun, the No.9 boiler of the TETs No.1 is being assembled, and the foundations for the building and installation of the No.9 Boiler for the TETS No.2 are being prepared.

Naturally things for our collective, which is involved in this, are tough when it comes to money. Wages are not being paid out anywhere, but this is a common problem and all of this must be overcome. The tasks we have set must be fulfilled because the lives of people in this city depend on it.

The nuclear station [not further identified] has been built normally and it is operating steadily [ustoychivo]. Its electric power is very cheap.

[Reporter] So what do we see today? We will not be able to move ahead without nuclear power engineering, right?

[Arzamasov] Without nuclear power engineering, particularly in our Far East region where electric power is very expensive, a factor which hampers industrial development—hardly anybody purchases products manufactured by Khabarovsk Kray plants because they are two to three times more expensive than those manufactured in Siberia, say, where electric power is very cheap. Nuclear power stations mean cheap electric power.

Yeltsin Signs Decree for Developing Adygeya Republic

LD1102001193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1343 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] [No dateline as received] President Yeltsin today signed the decree "On Measures for State Suppport of

the Economic and Social Development of the Republic of Adygeya," the press service of the president of the Russian Federation reported. According to the document, the government of the Republic of Adygeya has been granted until 1995 a right to determine the size of the annual export quotas for its products, including strategically important types of raw materials. Export duties charged on the products exported by the Republic of Adygeya enterprises will be credited to its budget and used for the needs of the state.

The government of the Russian Federation has been instructed to grant preferential credits to the Repablic of Adygeya for the development of its industrial enterprises, private enterprise, and the enterprises of the agricultural complex. The document has been signed in the interests of the stabilization of the economic and social situation in the Repaublic of Adygeya in the conditions of economic reforms, the press service report notes.

Rutskoy Visits Military Research Institute

OW1102054693 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1955 GMT 7 Feb 93

[By A. Tsiryulnikov; from the "Utro" program]

[Text] This is the first time we have been able to film in the shops of this enterprise in the many years since it was established. Previously the Central Burevestnik Scientific Research Institute was closed to the press and operated only for military departments, although it never shunned national economic problems. This is why today the institute has quietly entered the sphere of conversion, having available 90 priority technologies which are ready for series production. For example, there is the Istochnik system for obtaining truly pure and tasty drinking water from the water we drink—which could hardly be called potable—so it can be used in the output of various kinds of beverages and beer. There are also the vacuum chambers for dehydrating vegetables, meat, and other products requiring lengthy storage.

There are also other interesting inventions related to the ecology and comprehensive processing of agricultural produce. Nikolay Nikolayevich Khutkov, director of the institute, reported all this to Aleksandr Vladimirovich Rutskoy, vice president of Russia, who visited Nizhniy Novgorod last week. He did not conceal the fact that he visited here primarily in order to take a practical look at what defense complex enterprises such as Burevestnik are capable of. [Video shows Rutskoy addressing meeting.]

[Begin Rutskoy recording] We are not poor because we lack something; we are poor because we do not know how to manage what we have. Artillery, nuclear forces, and aviation have developed a closed-circuit system for processing agricultural produce, a practically waste-free production process. They have developed the production of pure biological products. This was not proposed to you by coincidence.

In fact the idea—it was my idea—is to create a technology complex [tekhnopolis] on the basis of the Burevestnik NPO [scientific production association], in other words an organization that would work in accordance with the model plan. This envisages 30 percent going to defense and 70 percent to the national economy because everything developed according to military technologies can be used in the national economy. [end recording]

Paratroopers From Azerbaijan Stranded at Dyagilevo Airfield

PM1002144393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Feb 93 p 3

[Oleg Bedula and Boris Soldatenko report under the "Events and Commentaries" rubric: "Russian Paratroopers Pull Out of Gyandzha, But Ulyanovsk Administration Refuses To Accept Them"]

[Text] The mass media have already reported that the 104th Guards' Airborne Division is being withdrawn from Azerbaijan to the city of Ulyanovsk in accordance with the Russian president's directive. The city soviet inner soviet adopted a decision to accommodate the paratroopers inside the city boundary on the territory of the former 26th Military Construction Unit Administration.

But the local authorities seem to be in no hurry to fulfill either their own decisions or decisions adopted at state level. Yuriy Goryachev, head of Ulyanovsk Oblast Administration, is now refusing to accept the paratroopers. He has been backed by the oblast soviet chairman and the city mayor, who sent Viktor Chernomyrdin a telegram setting forth the reasons for refusing.

The Airborne Forces Staff has told KRASNAYA ZVEZDA that the paratroopers and their family members, who have arrived from Azerbaijan, have now been at Dyagilevo Airfield near Ryazan for 72 hours, totally ignorant of their subsequent fate. Another aircraft, with Lieutenant General Aleksandr Chindarov, deputy commander of the Airborne Forces, on board, has flown to Bobrovka Airfield, which is located near Samara. According to data at the disposal of the editorial office, the paratroopers are ready to use combat hardware to advance in the direction of Ulyanovsk and to implement the president's directive by using—let us put it bluntly—such a nontraditional method. It seems that they simply have no other way out.

Detained Helicopter Crew Returns From Georgia

LD1002140793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1300 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Zhilyakov]

[Text] Krasnodar, 10 Feb— The last of the Russian helicopter pilots, Krasnodar residents Anatoliy Melnik, Valeriy Kutsenko, and Sergey Sokolov who made a helicopter flight on 18 January with food for the residents of Tkvarcheli and were then detained, returned

home today. Eight rescue workers and pilots were released earlier. An MI-8 rescue helicopter which rushed to the aid of the pilots of the first helicopter and which was detained by the Sukhumi authorities was also returned. The first helicopter has not yet been released by the Georgian side.

International Affairs

Supreme Soviet Chairman on START I Ratification Delay

LD1002204093 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By Vladimir Lyaskalo; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] Political struggle makes one think more about the need for peace. We have just received a report from Kiev, where a news conference was held by the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet and where the ratification of the Start I Treaty was discussed.

[Begin recording] [Lyaskalo] During a break between sessions today, Supreme Soviet Chairman Ivan Stepanovich Plyushch held a news conference. Our first question was how could the slowness with which the Supreme Soviet approached the ratification of the treaty on the reduction of strategic weapons be explained?

[Plyushch] Ukraine wants to clarify for itself all aspects of the mechanism that has been proposed for resolving this accord. You know about this mechanism. First of all, it means material and financial resources for implementing this work. Ukraine does not have them at present. Second, what and how will it affect Ukraine's security in case of implementation? These are two principle issues. We did not go back on the principle that Ukraine is a nonaligned, nuclear-free, and neutral state, but all this requires a clarification of the situation. I do not see a problem whether this treaty is ratified in February, March, or April. [end recording]

Further Plyushch Comment

OW1002203693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1941 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaker of the Ukrainian Parliament Ivan Plyushch commenting on the Russian president's decree about the former Soviet Union's property abroad said that "nothing terrible happened. Ukraine must not bang the door following the decree". Speaking in Kiev on Wednesday [10 February], he called to start high-level talks with Russia at which "to ask Yeltsin why he issued such a decree and then try to resolve the question of debt-sharing".

Under Yeltsin's decree, Russia claims for all of the former Soviet Union's property abroad as heir apparent to the USSR.

Plyushch said the document was an indication of "who is supporting the CIS and who is destroying it".

On the ratification of the START-1 agreement by the Ukrainian parliament, he said this would happen only after Ukraine was fully convinced that its security is guaranteed and it does not stand to suffer economically from the destruction of strategic nuclear weapons. Plyushch said the question of timing was of no importance to Ukraine, adding that the ratification could take place this month or next or in April. He said the parliament's overriding priority was to try to appease the people.

The Ukrainian official also said the absence of this year's budget is explained by the dispute over prices of Russian fuel exports to Ukraine.

On the national army, Plyushch said Ukraine "could not afford the upkeep of the present army" whose numerical strength is 700,000 servicemen. He said that under the government plan, troop numbers would be slashed down to 400,000 in the next two years, and to 200,000 in five to seven years after that.

Russia 'Not Always' Reliable

LD1002210693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1958 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Mikhail Melnik for TASS]

[Text] Kiev February 10 TASS—"We hope to solve all disputes through negotiations with the Russian leadership," Ukrainian Parliamentary Chairman Ivan Plyushch told a news conference in Kiev on Wednesday [10 February].

Commenting on the Russian presidential decree declaring Russia the only legal successor to the property of the former Soviet Union in foreign countries, Plyushch said Russia does not always act as a reliable partner.

At the same time he stressed that Ukraine has to reckon with Russia since it depends on Russian fuel and energy supplies.

Plyushch said Ukraine is unlikely to attend the interparliamentary assembly, which he described as an artificial and redundant structure doubling the work of interparliamentary committees and commission which coordinate law-making activities. Moreover, Ukraine is seeking integration into the European Community, Plyushch said.

Disarmament Official on Desired Security Guarantees

OW1002171293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1659 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The security guarantees that Ukraine wants from nuclear states must rule out the possibility both of armed aggression and economic pressure as well as ensure its territorial integrity, Deputy Foreign Minister and Chairman of the National Disarmament Committee Borys Tarasyuk told INTERFAX.

He said Ukraine would seek security guarantees from all five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

On foreign aid to help destroy Ukraine's nuclear arsenal, Tarasyuk said his country did not speak in terms of concrete sums involved but just wanted to convince its Western partners that the amount of aid must correspond to the actual cost of weapons destruction.

Tarasyuk said that Russia and Ukraine held two days of talks outside Kiev on the issue of weapons destruction late last month but had failed to reach any agreement because of substantial differences. Ukraine demanded that Russia must pay compensation money not only for the strategic nuclear weapons still on its territory but also for the tactical nuclear weapons which were transferred to Russia last spring.

Arms for Sale for $2 Billion in Kharkov

WS1102110393 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0900 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Report attributed to Moscow KOMMERSANT DAILY]

[Text] In Kharkov, at the Ukrainian-Siberian Universal Stock Exchange, a shipment of arms worth more than $2 billion has been offered for sale. The Stock Exchange manager, Blinkov, said that some African consumers were interested in it. He refused to name the selling company, saying only that it was Russian. The Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations refuted these allegations, however, claiming that Ukrainians themselves were selling arms using the Russian firm as a cover. The variety is very broad, including MiG 27K attack planes for $16 million, Yak-28 bombers for $13 million, Mi-8 helicopters for $2.5 million, 9P-133 missiles for $60,000, T-80 tanks for $2.2 million, Tunguska antiaircraft missile complexes for $65 million, submarines for $150,000, and other weapons.

Official Denies Violating Sanctions Against Yugoslavia

OW1002150493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1426 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Attempts by certain countries to accuse Ukraine of violating United Nations sanctions against Yugoslavia are an attempt to distract the international community from their own improper activities, said Boris Gudima, the head of the department of international organizations of the Ukrainian foreign ministry.

Appearing on national television on Tuesday [9 February], the diplomat presented documents which he said proved that oil sent from Ukrainian ports along the Danube was supplied by Russia, Greece, and Turkey.

Gudima noted that while it is doubtful that the Russian government would openly violate United Nations sanctions, there is an influential "pro-Serb lobby" in the Russian parliament.

Clinton, Kravchuk Discuss START I on Phone

WS1002124193 Kiev KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian 28 Jan 93 p 1

[Report attributed to the press service of the Ukrainian president: "Telephone Talk"]

[Text] On 26 January 1993, President Bill Clinton telephoned President Leonid Kravchuk.

During the conversation they discussed the state and prospects of bilateral Ukrainian-American relations. Special emphasis was placed on cooperation for the solution of economic problems that Ukraine had encountered during its transition to market economy. Bill Clinton expressed his positive attitude towards the Ukrainian Government's course of reform.

At the request of the American President, L. Kravchuk informed him of the progress of preparations for the ratification of the Treaty on Strategic Offensive Arms (START I). He emphasized that both he and the Government of Ukraine will observe the guidelines determined by the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet.

On his side, President Clinton confirmed the intention of the United States Administration to grant Ukraine $175 million to support the process of dismantling the nuclear weapons deployed on its territory, as well as to give Ukraine appropriate security guarantees.

The president of Ukraine spoke on the results of the recent conference of the CIS heads of states and governments, held in Minsk on 22 January and on the 15 January Ukrainian-Russian negotiations.

The presidents agreed that the Ukrainian minister of foreign affairs and the United States secretary of state should establish a direct contact in order to consult and negotiate the bulk of issues that are of common interest.

At the end of the conversation, Leonid Kravchuk once again congratulated Bill Clinton on officially assuming the post of United States President and expressed hope for further cooperation on equal and mutually advantageous terms.

Moscow, Kiev Agree on Unified Command of Black Sea Fleet

OW1002140393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1338 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A draft for a Russo-Ukrainian agreement on a unified command of the Black Sea Fleet until 1995 was agreed upon on Tuesday [9 February] at a regular working meeting of delegations from Ukraine and Russia in Kiev. The delegates at the meeting managed to remove the last obstacles to the closing of the agreement, the text of which is now to be sent to the presidents of the two countries involved.

The delegations were headed by Ukrainian Supreme Council First Deputy Chairman Vasiliy Durdynets and Russian Vice-Premier Yuriy Yarov. The next meeting regarding the Black Sea Fleet will take place in Moscow.

Interest in Mediterranean Denied

OW1002172993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1659 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukrainian Defense Minister Konstyantyn Morozov declared that his republic does not have strategic and global interests in the Mediterranean Sea. However, on his arrival to Sevastopol he underlined in his interview with INTERFAX that republic will solve issues of security in this region "together with other states."

Responding to a question concerning his attitude to a proposal of Black Sea Fleet Commander about joint Ukrainian-Russian control over navigation on the Danube, Morozov said that he has not been acquainted with this proposal yet. He underlined that "Ukraine will solve this problem considering its interests and the position of the U.N. Security Council."

Appearing over the Sevastopol TV the day before, Black Sea Fleet Commander Eduard Baltin proposed to organize a joint Ukrainian-Russian control over implementation of U.N. sanctions during shipping of cargoes along the Danube (to Yugoslavia—INTERFAX).

In Sevastopol, Morozov met with the Chairman of the Crimean Supreme Soviet Nikolay Bagrov, representative of President Kravchuk in Sevastopol Ivan Yermakov, and Commander of the Ukrainian Navy Borys Kozhyn. The Ukrainian Defense Minister is also to meet with Black Sea Fleet Commander Eduard Baltin.

Morozov Comments on Fleet Division

OW1002201693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1944 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] During his meeting with commander of Black Sea Fleet Eduard Baltin on Wednesday [10 February] in Sevastopol, Ukrainian Defense Minister Konstyantyn Morozov declared that Moscow and Kiev should divide the fleet "according to the principles of justice and recognition of territorial integrity" of each other. In Morozov's words, now Ukraine is solving the issue concerning presence of armed formations "of other states" on Ukraine's territory and concerning their status. "We shall not demobilize anybody for a refusal to swear oath of allegiance to Ukraine until 1995, and then we shall determine our further moves."

The minister reassured that he does not intend to sign any directives about re-subordination of Black Sea Fleet units to Ukrainian Defense Ministry without coordination of this issue with Russian party.

No Dismissals Regarding Oath Until 1995

LD1102105793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0900 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] At a meeting on Wednesday [10 February] in Sevastopol with Black Sea Fleet Commander Eduard Baltin, Ukrainian Defense Minister Konstyantyn Morozov said that Moscow and Kiev should divide up the fleet on the principles of fairness and recognition of each other's territorial integrity. In his words, the issue of the presence and status of the armed formations of other states on the territory of Ukraine is being settled.

Until 1995 we are not going to dismiss anyone for refusing to swear allegiance to Ukraine, but after that we will need to fix our position. The minister assured that he does not intend to sign any directives regarding making units of the Black Sea Fleet subordinate to the Ukrainian military department without the with the Russian side's consent.

President Kravchuk's Visit to United Kingdom Continues

Kravchuk Discusses Guarantees With Major

LD1002193193 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Good evening! Today is the second day of Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk's visit to Great Britain.

[Unidentified correspondent] British-Ukrainian negotiations took place at the official residence of British Prime Minister John Major. As a result of them, a number of joint political and economic documents were signed.

The problem of nuclear arms was one of the main issues of the bilateral negotiations. The British side is of the opinion that Ukraine must ratify the START I Treaty and accede to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

London and Washington have already provided Ukraine with guarantees of the fact that it will not be the object of intimidation by weapons of mass destruction, and in the event of danger posed by a third state, the United States and Great Britain pledge to provide the Ukrainian side with political support.

It was specific details of these guarantees that were discussed at the meeting between John Major and Leonid Kravchuk.

Confirms Plans To Become Non-Nuclear

LD1002203393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1828 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Report by Ukrinform-ITAR-TASS special correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Vladimir Voronkov]

[Excerpts] London, 10 Feb— Both Great Britain and Ukraine have an interest in security and stability in Europe and in the development of mutually beneficial

cooperation. This thought was uppermost during the British-Ukrainian summit talks between Prime Minister John Major and President Leonid Kravchuk, who is here on the first official visit. The sides have signed a number of important political and economic documents, including a treaty on principles for relations and cooperation. New prospects for interaction between the two countries are opened up by agreements affecting such areas as investment protection, education, science and culture, and air communications.

In the opinion of the head of the British Cabinet, which Major expressed during lunch in honor of the Ukrainian guest, these agreements also have symbolic significance, since they amount to a recognition of the fact that "Ukraine has entered the family of free peoples." [passage omitted]

In a reply speech, President Leonid Kravchuk pointed out that the fruitful talks and the frank exchange of opinions with the head of the British Government provide every ground to talk about the outset of a promising Ukrainian-British dialogue. The treaty on the fundamentals of relations and cooperation lays a firm foundation in developing full-blooded partership relations between the two countries. Through joint efforts, we will be creating an atmosphere of trust on our continent and live in a common European home.

The Ukrainian president confirmed once again that his country stuck firmly to its intention to become a nuclear-free power in the future. He voiced the conviction that the START I Treaty would soon be ratified in parliament, and also that Ukraine would accede to the nuclear weapons Nonproliferation Treaty.

Speaking about the political, economic, and social processes occurring in Ukraine, Leonid Kravchuk indicated that, during the implementation of the reforms, the country's leadership was counting on the great human potential, and would abide by the principles of a peace-loving foreign policy and develop partnership relations with all states.

Series of Documents Signed

LD1002230893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2100 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By UKRINFORM special correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Vladimir Ivanov for TASS]

[Text] London February 10 TASS—Both Britain and Ukraine are interested in security and stability in Europe and in the development of mutual beneficial cooperation, it was repeatedly stressed in the course of British Ukrainian summit talks between Prime Minister John Major and President Leonid Kravchuk, who is here on an official visit.

The sides have signed a series of important political and economic documents, including the treaty on principles of relations and cooperation. New prospects interaction of the two countries are outlined in the agreements on such spheres as the protection of investments, education, science, culture and air traffic.

According to John Major, these agreements have a symbolic significance because they record the recognition of the fact that Ukraine has joined the family of free nations. Speaking at a lunch in honour of the Ukrainian guest John Major said that the agreement signed in London were instruments of democratic governments which give the British leadership "building materials" for extending assistance to Ukraine in economic reforms through trade and capital investments.

The British prime minister welcomed Ukraine's intention to become a nuclear-free country in the future and stressed that its security would be more reliable if it gets rid of nuclear arms. He said this would lay the foundation for honest partnership with the free world democracies, including the European Community. Major said Britain supported Ukraine's integration in European political structures. All countries are looking for friends, Major said and added that Ukraine could count on Britain's support of its efforts aimed at building a truly democratic state.

Leonid Kravchuk said fruitful talks and sincere exchanges of views with the head of the British Government provided ground for speaking about the beginning of a promising Ukrainian-British dialogue. The treaty of principles of relation and cooperation is laying a solid foundation for the development of full-blooded partnership relations between the two countries.

The Ukrainian president reiterated his country's firm intention to become a nuclear-free power in the future. He expressed confidence that the Ukrainian Parliament would soon ratified the START-1 Treaty and that Ukraine would soon join the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

Meets With EBRD Board Members

LD1002231293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2117 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By UKRINFORM special correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Vladimir Voronkov for TASS]

[Text] London February 10 TASS—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk met members of the board of the European Bank of the Reconstruction and Development [EBRD] during his official visit to Britain on Wednesday [10 February].

He characterised political, social and economic processes underway in Ukraine and dwelled on the problems of building an independent state. Kravchuk told the EBRD leaders that urgent action was needed to overcome the economic crisis in Ukraine. Although much is being done, Ukraine counts on mutually beneficial cooperation with the international financial organisations, Kravchuk said. He hoped the EBRD would help reconstruct enterprises in the metallurgical industry with all

expenses compensated for with the output of high quality products. There is a need for a joint consortium with West European companies to develop oil fields, build an oil terminal in Odessa and accomplish other projects.

EBRD President Jacques Attali told journalists after his meeting with the Ukrainian president that the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development intended to support by all means economic reforms in Ukraine. He particularly stressed the need to implement projects which ensure safety of Ukrainian nuclear power stations and protect the environment as a whole.

According to Attali, the bank is already helping Ukraine to carry out its privatisation programme, strengthen its financial sector and develop infrastructure and telecommunications.

During his meeting with Leonid Kravchuk, Jacques Attali discussed aspects of budget control, which is a major element of the framework for a market economy and capital investments to be created in Ukraine. It is not a condition for our cooperation but an objective of joint efforts, Attali stressed.

The meeting between the Ukrainian president and members of the board of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development ended with the signing of a memorandum on mutual understanding between Ukraine and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Later in the day, the lord-mayor of the city gave a dinner in honour of the Ukrainian president in the Guild Hall.

National Affairs

Donbass Trade Unions Support Mine Strikes

LD1002161793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1408 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Strikes are continuing at Ukraine's biggest mine, the Stakhanov, and at the Central and Rodinskaya mines. There are very weighty reasons for the strike, I would say. Miners are accusing the government of breaching rates agreements in 1992 and of unwillingness to consider new conditions for the 1993 rates agreement. Wages are at issue. Leonid Kuchma's government caps inflation by freezing workers' and employees' wages, that is by not carrying out indexation, and miners are coming out against this. The miners' strike began in the area where miners get the highest wages of all Ukrainian miners' workforces.

One other important miners' requirement is not to deprive mines of independence. Actually, the day before the government issued a decree restoring inflexible vertical management of the coal industry, with a coal committee at the top. This committee should manage the coal industry in very much the same manner as in days gone by, in the same way as Ministry of Coal Industry used to.

It must be said that the miners' demands are supported by both trade unions—the small Independent Miners' Trade Union and the Trade Union of Ukrainian Coal Industry Workers. They made a joint statement declaring pre-strike readiness at all Donbass mines. An hour ago, in fact, a meeting of the Council of the Alliance of Independent Industrial Unions of Donbass, which unites 2.5 million Donbass workers, ended in Donetsk. The council also supported miners' demands. it considers that a pre-emptive warning strike of all Donbass industries should begin on the 25th. Thus, the situation is very complicated. I believe the government should take serious steps to remedy the situation and defuse a very serious conflict.

Odessa Official Calls For Presidential Rule

LD1102030393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2000 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yefim Shvartsman]

[Text] Odessa February 10 TASS—Ukrainian presidential representative in the Odessa region has called for presidential rule in the republic.

Vladlen Ilyn, presidential envoy in the region, described the work of the republican parliament and local councils as unsatisfactory, unconstructive and hampering reforms. He said if presidential rule is not introduced, recurrences of neo-communism are possible.

Ilyn denied rumours about soon famine in Odessa, adding that the city has enough food reserves. He also criticised "some recent decrees" by the government of Leonid Kuchma for providing conditions for possible deviations from the path of reforms in Ukraine.

Kravchuk Adviser Discusses Progress of Reforms

OW1002192693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1746 GMT 10 Feb 93

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The adviser to the Ukrainian head of state on economic policy and president of the Union of Independent Entrepreneurs Aleksander Yemelyanov declared at a press conference in Kiev that the actions of Cabinet of Ministers fully correspond to the "Principles of National Economic Policy" adopted by the parliament last spring (this document has determined strategic directions for further development of the republic along the market way—INTERFAX).

"If we examine each decree separately," said Yemelyanov, "it looks like movement aside [as received], in the direction which is adverse to the market." However, Kravchuk's adviser believes that the new government has serious prospects and its decrees should be viewed in complex.

In Yemelyanov's words, for a long time he was struggling to restrict administrative functions of ministries. The present situation makes him sure that "today there exist two ways: either to free enterprises and this can lead to hyperinflation and impoverishment of population," or "to take state enterprises in the government's hands and to control this process." Yemelyanov assesses the Decree "On Incorporation of Enterprises" adopted by the government several days ago as a positive achievement of Kuchma's cabinet. In accordance with this document before July 1 all state enterprises should be transformed into open joint stock companies. The presidential adviser believes that the veto imposed by parliament on this decree does not present any hindrances to implement provisions of this document into practice.

The presidential adviser reported that the Union of Independent Entrepreneurs headed by him and uniting already about 40 Ukrainian and foreign members intends to create its own joint stock bank, insurance society, consulting and holding companies. The Union intends to assist in export-import operations, to open currency credit lines, for foreign investors as well, playing the role of a guarantor. "In order to get rid of quite understandable fears, foreign investors should have one or two successful examples of investment into Ukraine's economy," Yemelyanov underlined.

In his opinion, Ukraine has failed to create a system of information support of foreign investment. The Union of Independent Entrepreneurs headed by the President's adviser intends to compensate for this gap.

Commission Formed To Coordinate Communications System

LD1102030093 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 1848 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Measures on creating a single national communications system will be implemented with the purpose of consolidating the statehood of Ukraine, accelerating the process of its integration into the European and world economic structures, and improving political and business contacts at an international level in accordance with a resolution by the Cabinet of Ministers. The Ministry of Communications has been tasked with the development of the blueprint of a relevant national program by 20 March 1993, which is to envisage that work on the introduction of automatic telephone communications between Ukraine and all the countries of the world be completed by the year of 1995; the existing network of intercity telephone communications be reconstructed by the year of 2000 (with the use of up-to-date electronic switchboard equipment, fibre-optical cables, digital radio-relay lines, and digital transmission systems); fully meeting the requirement of state and other bodies, enterprises, institutions, and organizations for local telephone communications by the year of 2000, and that of the rural and urban population by the year of 2005, be ensured; general state four-channel television and radio broadcasting networks, as well as those with no less than two channels for local state television and radio broadcasting, be established in the years of 1992 to 2000; and multi-channel electromagnetic-wave and cable television be developed, and so on.

To coordinate work on the creation and development of the single national communications system and its individual links, the State Interdepartmental Commission for Communications [Mezhvedomstvennaya Gosudarstvennaya Komissiya po Svyazi] headed by Ukrainian Vice Prime Minister V.I. Yevtukhov has been set up under the Cabinet of Ministers.

New Information Agency Created on Basis of Former APN

AU1002133393 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 9 Feb 93 p 4

[Kostyantyn Paryshkura report: "For the Freedom of Information"]

[Text] **Good News**

At the end of August 1991, the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic decided to create Ukraine's Independent Information Agency [UNIAN] on the basis of the disbanded APN. However, it has taken yet another decision by the Supreme Council Presidium to enable new hosts to walk into the building on 4, Khreshchatyk. The agency's editor is chief Volodymyr Ruban (until recently a special correspondent of MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Ukraine).

The main task of the agency is to disseminate timely and objective information on the events in Ukraine and—for the Ukrainian mass media—on the events in the world. Unfortunately, so far, these gaps have been filled in by the Russian mass media and not always objectively.

The cofounders of UNIAN are Ukraine's Journalists Union, "Prosvita" [Enlightenment] Society, "Ukrayina" Society, National Press Club, and Union of Lawyers. The Presidium of Ukraine's Supreme Council has leased the building of the former APN branch to the agency for five years free of charge and adapted it to the needs of journalists: Communication lines have been fixed and, after equipment is delivered, it will be possible to transmit television pictures, photographic negatives, or text to any part of the world.

On 3 March, UNIAN will work on a weekly basis. In April it will start working on a daily basis (twice a day) plus weekly bulletins—business and politics—and monthly (regions). Ten journalists already work in the agency, all of them on a contract basis. Journalists first sign a contract for three months (probation) and then for one year. If both sides are satisfied with their collaboration, the contract will be extended.

Ukraine People's Deputy Mykhaylo Batih is the general director of UNIAN. The "Vidrodzhennya" [Rebirth] Fund has allocated money for purchasing technology and covering initial expenses. UNIAN will then be on its own. Affiliated with the agency is a journalists club that will, in the future, have an electronic data base, information service, and a snack bar.

Belarus

Shushkevich Assesses Conversation With Clinton

LD1002180793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1705 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Report by BELINFORM correspondent Sergey Zayats for TASS]

[Text] Minsk, 10 Feb—Assessing the results of his telephone conversation with Bill Clinton at a briefing today, Stanislav Shushkevich, the head of the Belarusian parliament, noted that the conversation had been occasioned by the results of the work of the Belarusian parliament, which had ratified the treaty on the reduction and limitation of strategic offensive weapons, the Lisbon protocol to it, and also the decision on Belarus's accession to the nuclear weapons Nonproliferation Treaty.

Answering a correspondent's question, the head of the Belarusian parliament again confirmed the republic's intention to reduce the seven-year period for the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from the republic's territory to 2.5 years.

Phone Conversation Detailed

OW1002180493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1742 GMT 10 Feb 93

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Tuesday [9 February] evening, Chairman of the Belarusian parliament Stanislav Shushkevich and U.S. President Bill Clinton had a telephone conversation on the White House's initiative. The Belarusian parliament's spokesman Aleksandr Krizhanovskiy told INTERFAX [IF] that on his own behalf and on behalf of the American people, the U.S. president praised the Belarusian parliament's steps to ensure the nuclear-free and neutral status of Belarus. To quote Krizhanovskiy, Clinton welcomed the ratification of the START-1 treaty and of the Lisbon Protocol by the Belarusian parliament on February 4, 1993. He also highly estimated the fact that Belarus has joined the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

The U.S. president assured the Belarusian leader that the U.S. will provide Belarus with security guarantees. He also stated that in addition to the financial aid within the Nunn and Lugar law, the U.S. will give Belarus additional support in implementing the above-mentioned treaties. Clinton informed Shushkevich that he had instructed experts to hold consultations on these problems at the level of foreign ministries.

The two leaders also discussed ways of broadening economic and cultural cooperation. Clinton expressed the wish to continue the dialogue at the summit level. Shushkevich confirmed his state's policy of neutrality and commitment to work for the attainment of a nuclear-free status. He also said that Belarus was determined to contribute to the cause of peace and security, and expressed great interests in broadening friendly and mutually advantageous relations between Belarus and the U.S. Shushkevich emphasized that in Belarus the interests of foreign investors were adequately protected by the law.

Speaking about Belarusian-American humanitarian cooperation, Shushkevich expressed the wish to broaden contacts with the United States' Belarusian community. The two leaders pledged to maintain a permanent and diversified dialogue.

According to diplomatic sources, the White House was satisfied with the telephone talks. The officials who were present in the Oval Office during the telephone conversation noted that Clinton was pleased with the content and tone of the talks.

Aleksandr Krizhanovskiy also said that Shushkevich highly estimated the talks with President Clinton, describing them as "extremely useful for broadening relations between the Republic of Belarus and the U.S."

IF Note: The talks between Shushkevich and Clinton lasted for about 30 minutes.

Further Shushkevich Comment

LD1002224293 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2100 GMT 10 Feb 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Meanwhile, Shushkevich, the head of the Belarusian parliament, talked to Clinton, the current U.S. President, by telephone. Clinton welcomed Belarus's consistent policy aimed at achieving the status of a nuclear-free and neutral state. [Video shows a group of reporters interviewing Shushkevich.]

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Aleksey Zhuk] Is it a question of ratifying the START treaty?

[Shushkevich] Yes, I would say that as a result of the very serious and lengthy discussion, very serious work in commissions, and analysis of opponents' speeches, we have come to the conclusion that we accept these documents without any reservations, we are acceding to the Lisbon protocol, and we declare that, as a non-nuclear power, we are acceding to the 1968 nuclear weapons Nonproliferation Treaty.

[Zhuk] Did the United States promise to provide assistance with disarmament matters, that is, with arms reduction?

[Shushkevich] I would say that we have not laid down any preconditions, especially for the United States, a great power. But precisely the United States, through the

mouth of Mr. President, has declared that it gives us nuclear guarantees. [end recording]

Foreign Policy 'Important' to Clinton

WS1102130893 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1246 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] At a briefing held on 10 February, Stanislav Shushkevich, chairman of the Belarusian Supreme Council, commented on his conversation with U.S. President Clinton.

S. Shushkevich noted that the call had been occasioned by the results of the work of the Belarusian legislature which ratified the agreement on the reduction of strategic offensive weapons, the Lisbon Protocol, and the agreement on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. There were many different proposals on how to resolve these issues. Some deputies maintained that with the loss of the "nuclear shield," Belarus would also lose its international prestige and respect. Others proposed to lay in a store of international guarantees in advance. The third group, the most numerous one, tried to preserve the chosen course toward a nuclear-free and neutral state which was stated in the declaration. Time showed that this "highly moral policy" gave the best results.

Stanislav Shushkevich stressed that the journalists' forecast that the new course of the new President was a U.S. domestic problem turned out to be incorrect. Continuity of foreign policy is very important to Bill Clinton. That is why most of the 15-minute conversation was devoted to the solution of presidential issues: strategic arms and world security. Bill Clinton's assessment of the positive role performed by the Belarusian legislature was high. The U.S. response was nuclear guarantees for Belarus. This will help shield Belarus from the threats of other nuclear powers. Stanislav Shushkevich was convinced that this would not happen.

The head of the Belarusian legislature repeatedly confirmed Belarus' intention to reduce the period for withdrawing nuclear arms from its territory from seven to two and a half years.

Kravchanka, Warren Christopher To Discuss START I

LD1002184993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1749 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By BELINFORM correspondent Tatyana Khryapina for TASS]

[Text] Minsk February 10 TASS—Belarusian Foreign Minister Petr Kravchanka will meet with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in March in accordance with an agreement reached by Belarusian Parliamentary Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich and U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Kravchanka and Christopher will discuss issues connected with the implementation of the START-1 strategic arms reduction agreement in Belarus, the Lisbon Protocol to the agreement and the non-proliferation treaty. They are also expected to discuss prospects for bilateral cooperation between Belarus and the United States.

The date of the meeting has yet to be set.

Association of Servicemen Calls For Slavic Unity

WS1102085393 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 27 Jan 93 p 2

[Report by BELINFORM correspondent Alyaksandr Limanouski: "Slavs From All Countries Should Unite"]

[Text] An Executive Council of the Belarusian Association of Servicemen called for the creation of an international public organization called the "Slavic Democratic Assembly."

The council's appeal to public leaders, and public and political organizations says that after the crash of totalitarian systems nearly all Slavic states found themselves in the state of political and economic crisis. Conflicts between Slavic peoples have become a reality. A "Slavic Democratic Assembly" [SDA] could help to coordinate activities of public leaders from Slavic states in the sphere of solving different problems and encouraging reforms. The SDA's activities should be based on the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, priorities of an individual's rights, rights of Slavic people for maintaining their national culture, and development of relations with non-Slavic countries.

Peasant Party Resolution Seeks More Land for Farmers

WS1102083793 Minsk DOBRY VECHAR in Belarusian 25 Jan 93 p 1

[BELAPAN report under the "Parties' Chronicles" rubric: "A Quarter of Arable Lands to Farmers?"]

[Text] The Fourth Congress of the Belarusian Peasant's Party [BPP] took place on 20 January 1993. A number of organizational issues—party structure and membership fees—were discussed.

Judging by the speeches, the majority of the delegates have not heard about the BPP's aims or tasks. As for the farmers, they view the BPP as their defender and lawyer because they feel that no one, including the Ministry of Agriculture, is watching out for their needs. Some deputies proposed reorganizing the BPP into a joint stock company of farmers.

BPP Chairman Kanstantsin Yarmolyanka proposed a draft resolution addressed to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus. The draft resolution says, in part, that the adoption of the draft law "On Land Property" that calls for three types of land property—state, private, and collective—will hamper the development of the Belarusian rural economy. The wrong kind of state financial and credit system will interfere with agricultural development.

The congress issued a resolution in which it petitioned the legislature and the government to give new farmers not less than 25 percent of the arable land from kolkhozes' and sovkhozes' registered land.

The resolution was adopted by majority vote.

Communist Party Bureau Holds First Meeting After Ban

WS0902170993 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1037 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] As a BELINFORM correspondent has learned, the Central Committee Bureau of the Belarusian Communist Party [BCP] has held its first meeting after a long break. The reason was the Supreme Council decision to repeal the resolution on the suspension of the Communist Party. Belarusian communists have been granted an opportunity to lawfully decide the fate of their political organization which was actually banned for a year and a half.

What must be done to implement this constitutional right? What are the means of restoring the Belarusian Communist Party? These issues were discussed at the BCP Central Committee Bureau meeting.

The meeting noted that the restoration of the BCP activities would not be easy. The once largest political organization of Belarus which numbered about 460,000 members on the eve of the August 1991 coup has found itself in a "knockout". Despite this, the meeting provided a number of facts proving that the solid reserve of communist ideas in the mentality of the community has not yet been exhausted.

The bureau adopted a decision to call a BCP Central Committee plenum in late February. The plenum will have to discuss primary measures for resuming the BCP activities. The key goal is to hold the 32d BCP Congress. One of the main reasons for convening it is the account of all members who despite everything have not severed their ties with the party. It is important to do this as soon as possible. Such a measure will help raise the funds necessary to begin the activities and to hold the congress.

The Central Committee Bureau also appealed to all who were elected to the central bodies at the previous congress— the Central Committee and the Auditing Commission—with the suggestion to officially express their attitude toward further membership in their work.

Shushkevich Discusses Plans for Latvian Border

OW1002184093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1742 GMT 10 Feb 93

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin and edited by Boris Grishchenko—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Belarusian parliament head Stanislav Shushkevich, in an exclusive interview with INTERFAX [IF], said that "a reasonable degree of transparency of the Belarusso-Latvian state border will be officially established in the near future." The interview was done after a ceremony in which letters of credence were given to Latvian Ambassador Janis Lovniks. According to Shushkevich, Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich will be making an official visit to Riga in February, when "three or four treaties on this subject" are scheduled to be signed.

Shushkevich said that the question of opening a Belarusian embassy in Latvia was "purely a technical matter." "In terms of a political resolution, one has already been passed, and there are no obstacles to doing this, even tomorrow," he said.

IF Note: According to reports from government sources, the State Monetary Fund plans to allocate some $70,000 for the upkeep of an embassy in Latvia in 1993. According to existing plans, the maintenance of all of Belarus's foreign embassies and consulates will cost the republic $7 million this year.

To the question of whether he considered the Baltic states uninterested in establishing patrolled borders with Belarus and the strengthening of customs controls along them, Shushkevich answered: "I cannot answer for the Baltic states, as this is not apparent from official documents. The transparency of the border between Belarus and Latvia will be unequivocally established."

Cultural Cooperation Agreement Signed With Lithuania

LD1002233693 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] A Lithuanian-Belarusian agreement on cultural cooperation has been signed. This document was signed in the Belarusian capital, Minsk, by Belarusian Minister of Culture Yevgeniy Voytovich and Lithuanian Minister of Culture and Education Dainius Trinkunas. The agreement, among other things, provides for the exchange of information between Lithuania and Belarussia about exported art values.

Apart from that, the ministers of culture of both countries signed a program of Lithuanian-Belarusian cultural cooperation for 1993-1994.

Moldova

Granting of Special Status to Dniester Conditioned

LD1102133393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1200 GMT 11 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, 11 Feb—Moldova is prepared to grant the Dniester region the status of a region with administrative self-government on condition that the unity and integrity of Moldova is maintained. This was stated in an

interview to the OASTYA MOLDOVEY newspaper by Anatol Tsaran, leader of the Chisinau delegation from the mixed parliamentary commission on a peace settlement to the conflict on the left bank of the Dniester.

According to Tsaran, Moldova is prepared to make concessions, for example, for a legislative assembly to be set up on the left bank. With the help of this body, the Dniester region could work out its own laws, which at the same time would not impinge upon the integrity of Moldova. This principle, in the opinion of Anatol Tsaran, is fundamental in working out the final document to be submitted to the Tiraspol delegation by Chisinau.

Anatol Tsaran also stressed that, in seeking to resolve the conflict, Moldova will not restrict itself only to dialogue with the leaders of the Dniester region, but also will look for ways to resolve these issues in Moscow and Kiev, involving international mechanisms.

Dniester Leader Concerned Over Army Withdrawal

LD1102132593 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1200 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Text] The RIA agency has reported that Igor Smirnov, president of the Dniester republic, has voiced concern over the planned withdrawal of the 14th Russian combined-arms army from the territory of Moldova. A message by him to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, circulated on 11 February at the request of several factions of the Russian parliament, notes that the Army's withdrawal will not be a stabilizing factor for the Dniester region.

Smirnov stated that the process of the transfer of weapons, combat hardware and ammunition, including the most up to date, to Moldova by the Russian Federation is causing profound disquiet and perplexity. Smirnov expressed the desire that the Dniester side should become a full participant in the talks on matters relating to the 14th Army which, in his view, remains a guarantor of peace, security, and stability in the region.

Moscow Paper on Election of Former Communist as Speaker

PM1002151793 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Feb 93 p 2

[Arkadiy Pasechnik report: "Moldova: Petru Lucinschi Is Speaker"]

[Text] Chisinau—At the 4 February session of the Moldovan parliament Petru Lucinschi was elected chairman of the republic's supreme legislative organ.

A professional politician, he worked for many years in the Komsomol [Lenin Communist Youth League], in Moldovan party organs, and in the CPSU Central Committee. From November 1989 until February 1991 he headed the republic party organization. Then he was elected a CPSU Central Committee secretary. He has recently been Moldovan ambassador to Russia.

Of course, the very fact of electing a former communist leader as speaker demands serious analysis. Particularly since this has taken place in a republic where the communist party continues to be banned, and where "democrats" of the most varied hues are still not tired of furiously calling the communists all kinds of names. And yet, judging by the first reactions, the public's attention is being drawn primarily to two aspects. The half-paralyzed Moldovan parliament, hopelessly split by factional struggle, has suddenly expressed a unanimity that had not been observed here for a long time, electing Lucinschi in a contest by an overwhelming majority of votes. You would like to believe that this first aspect is linked to a second: In recent years Lucinschi has proved himself a flexible politician capable of reasonable compromise, while at the same time never deviating from his main aim.

Legal Assistance Agreement Signed With Lithuania

LD1002204893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1201 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By MOLDOVA-PRES for TASS]

[Text] Chisinau, 10 Feb—An official delegation from Lithuania has ended its visit to Moldova with the signing of an interstate agreement on legal assistance in civil, matrimonial, and criminal cases.

According to Lithuanian Justice Minister Jonas Prapiestis, the document opens the possibility of resolving numerous legal problems that occur between the citizens of the two countries and will help in implementing the law in all spheres of everyday life, creating the legal foundations of the states and establishing interstate relations of a new type.

Kazakhstan

Japanese Delegation Arrives To Discuss Economic Aid

LD0902175293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1715 GMT 9 Feb 93

[By KAZTAG-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kulagin]

[Text] Alma-Ata February 9 TASS—A Japanese government delegation headed by Hidiaki Ueda, director general of the Economic Cooperation Department of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, arrived in the Kazakh capital on Tuesday [9 February] night. The delegation will hold talks at a government level and that of the Kazakh Foreign Ministry with the aim of coordinating the issues connected with rendering economic and technical assistance to the republic. This assistance will be given to Kazakhstan within the framework of the aid programme for the commonwealth countries for the implementation of which the Japanese government earmarked 100 million U.S. dollars. The delegation sets itself the task to determine the priority spheres for investing funds from the share intended for Kazakhstan.

Two tonnes of cargoes were delivered to Kazakhstan as Japanese government aid on board the plane by which the guests from Japan arrived. The cargoes are designated for the population living on the Aral seashore which is a zone of ecological disaster.

Ueda Comments on Visit

LD1002140393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1336 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By KAZTAG correspondent Ivan Zakharchenko for TASS]

[Text] Alma-Ata February 10 TASS—Japan welcomes current reforms in the ex-USSR aimed at promoting democracy and free economy, Hidiaki Ueda, deputy general director of the Economic Cooperation Department at the Japanese Foreign Ministry, told on Wednesday Kazakhstan's Deputy Prime Minister Asygat Zhabagin.

Last October, Ueda said, Tokyo hosted a conference on assistance to the CIS countries, a relevant committee was set up this January, and 100 million dollars allocated. Kazakhstan's share in this sum has yet to be determined, but one can say with certainty that in 1993 Kazakhstan will receive greater assistance than last year.

Speaking about the goal of the visit of the delegation to Kazakhstan, Ueda said that the main goal is to determine during consultations with relevant ministries the specific areas in which Kazakhstan needs Japanese economic and financial assistance. Japan may grant Kazakhstan easy credits. Its people positively assess the situation in the republic and are prepared to cooperate with it on a mutually beneficial basis.

The Japanese delegation also delivered to Kazakhstan the first shipment of Red Cross humanitarian aid, comprising drugs and powder milk.

Ueda, Kurmangozhin Cited

LD1002233493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2149 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By KAZTAG correspondent Ivan Zakharchenko for TASS]

[Text] Alma-Ata February 10 TASS—A Japanese Government delegation led by Deputy Director General of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Department for Economic Cooperation Hidiaki Ueda has arrived in Kazakhstan to identify through consultations the fields in which to extend economic and financial assistance to the republic, including easy credits, according to Ueda.

On Wednesday talks were held between representatives of interested ministries and departments of Kazakhstan and Japan. The Kazakhstan delegation was led to talks by First Deputy Foreign Minister Salim Kurmangozhin.

Kazakhstan, according to the Japanese delegation leader, fully meets the principles to which Japan adheres in extending governmental assistance to over states, and it will seek to assist Kazakhstan to the maximum possible degree in its efforts to transfer to market relations and build a law-governed democratic state. As concerns aid, according to Hidiaki Ueda, regular assistance is more important and effective in achieving strategic objectives by the country to which it is extended than temporary and urgent.

Japan's experience shows that there are no short-cuts to attracting foreign capital. Private entrepreneurs cannot be ordered to invest in another country's economy, and this is why Japan intends to offer financial and other assistance on the part of its government only in carrying out specific projects.

A group of Japanese specialists are due to arrive in Alma-Ata in March to work on possible projects and plans for their realisation. It is desirable for Kazakhstan to send specialists to Japan to study its system of private investments and ways in which the Japanese Government helps other countries. This would be of mutual benefit, the Japanese delegation leader said.

Salim Kurmangozhin stressed that the problem of the Aral Sea is no longer a problem for Kazakhstan alone, it has become a world issue. Effective participation of other countries is needed to reach the solution to this issue in the nearest perspective. The republic needs technological assistance here in the use of its innumerable mineral riches and in processing its farm produce. The Kazakhstan side believes that cooperation can be constructive not only in the economic field but also in the fields of culture, science and education.

On Thursday, February 11, the Kazakh and Japanese delegations will scrutinise all aspects of cooperation of interest to the sides in groups.

Deputy Prime Minister Meets Delegation

LD1002234393 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1500 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Today Deputy Prime Minister Asygat Zhabagin had a meeting with members of the Japanese Government delegation headed by Hidiaki Ueda, general director of the economic cooperation department of the Foreign Ministry. Speaking about the purpose of the current visit to Kazakhstan, Ueda reported that the main aim of the visit is to determine, in the course of consultations with the appropriate institutions, what spheres should be rendered economic and financial assistance in the republic. Assistance might be rendered, not only by government circles, but also through private resources.

Japan is ready to provide Kazakhstan with favorable credits and its people positively appraise the stable situation in the republic and will cooperate on a mutually beneficial basis. On the same day, at the Friendship House, the negotiations between the delegations of both countries started. It is known that in March a group of Japanese specialists will arrive in Alma-Ata for working out possible projects and plans for their implementation. The necessity of sending specialists from Kazakhstan to study the system of private investments to Japan has been expressed. This will be beneficial for both sides. Tomorrow, Kazakhstan and Japanese representatives will discuss in detail all the issues of mutually beneficial cooperation and their interest at the sectional meetings.

Alma-Ata Retains Name, Gets New Kazakh Spelling

LD0902115193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1105 GMT 9 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow February 9 TASS—The Kazakh capital of Alma-Ata did not change its name. The new constitution of the republic only changed the spelling of the name according to the rules of the Kazakh language - "Almaty'-', TASS learned on Tuesday [9 February] from the secretariat of the president of Kazakhstan.

Ambassador Holds Talks With Turkish Prime Minister

LD0902133793 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0000 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel has received Kanat Saudabayev, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Kazakhstan. During the meeting the sides exchanged views on internal and external policies of mutual cooperation between the two countries.

The ambassador informed the head of the Turkish Government about the social, political, and economic changes which are taking place in the Republic. One of the most important events is the adoption of the first constitution of the young sovereign state. Having greeted the people of Kazakhstan on the adoption of the constitution, Demirel stressed that the event is important not only for Kazakhstan; it will also be important on the international stage, since the world is watching the reforms being carried out in your country with great interest.

Turkey is persistently appealing to the leading countries of the world to promote the formation of Kazakhstan and other Turkic states. In particular, continued the Turkish leader, this topic has been discussed with the heads of a number of Arabic countries and in a recent telephone conversation with the U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Economic Cooperation Discussed With Bulgarian Leaders

LD1002213693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2036 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Stepanenko]

[Text] Sofia February 10 TASS—Kazakhstan's Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko met with his Bulgarian counterpart Lyuben Berov in Sofia on Wednesday [10 February] to discuss a wide range of issues concerning bilateral cooperation.

They stressed that both countries will base their relations on a treaty of friendship and cooperation to be signed during Bulgarian President Zhelyu Zhelev's upcoming visit to Kazakhstan.

The two countries are also expected to sign other agreements, including on trade and economic cooperation, on the elimination of double taxation, mutual protection of investments and on cultural and transportation cooperation.

The two leaders said Kazakhstan and Bulgaria should create favourable conditions for bilateral trade and invigorate business contacts, including between private businesses.

Bulgaria is ready to sell Kazakhstan electronic equipment, cranes and other lifting machines, food processing equipment and develop tourism in exchange for oil, cotton, wool and metal.

Tereshchenko said Kazakhstan is interested in setting up joint ventures with Bulgaria to make medicines, cosmetics and confectionery. He said Kazakhstan and Bulgaria could also cooperate in combatting illegal drug trafficking.

The Kazakh delegation was also received by Zhelev. The parties discussed the pace of reforms in Russia and Kazakhstan. Zhelev expressed confidence that the treaty

of friendship and cooperation will be ready for signing by mid-May. They also discussed prospects for exchanging diplomatic representatives and opening embassies in Sofia and Alma-Ata.

Kyrgyzstan

Sociopolitical, Economic Situation Viewed

PM1002170393 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Feb 93 p 2

[Yuriy Razgulyayev report under the rubric "Kyrgyzstan: Political Landscape": "Bitter Time of Sobering Up"]

[Text] Bishkek—The first month of the new year ended in a serious exacerbation of the sociopolitical situation in Kyrgyzstan. At an emergency government session, President A. Akayev stated that the situation in the economy is no longer critical, but quite simply catastrophic.

The fall in production has gone far beyond the most pessimistic forecasts. Waiting lines for bread have appeared, and there are huge interruptions in the transportation system. As for the "Manas" airport, it has virtually been closed for a long time.

The budget which was confirmed by the Supreme Soviet session ran out in the first few weeks of the year. Its deficit was enormous anyway. And then there was an other price hike on energy sources. This hike proved to be so drastic that many people could simply no longer afford energy sources.

But the president is more frightened by the fall in executive discipline, the growth in corruption, and the mass bribery among the state apparatus than he is by the cruel blows of the market. A particularly alarming situation has formed in the banks. The majority of state enterprises have found themselves cut off from financing. All money is being channeled into commercial structures, where there is a quicker turnover, and where its criminal redistribution proceeds more easily.

The republic's economy has virtually broken out of state control. Here are just a few figures. With extreme difficulty, the government reached agreement with Russia on a technical credit of 30 billion rubles [R]. But already in the first few days of January the national bank had received payment documentation for for the payment of R100 billion in Russia. And no one can answer the question of whether they really represent commodities that Kyrgyzstan acutely needs, or whether once again the speculators are pulling a fast one.

And another example. The republic's gross product this year should come to R250 billion. But when claims for imports were recently collected from enterprises, R400 billion's worth had already accumulated.

"Is this not a case of eating through our own resources?" Vice Premier G. Kuznetsov asks reasonably. "How long will we live beyond our means?"

It is also difficult to answer these questions because "economic banditry" in the republic is becoming increasingly extensive. It has reached the point where even humanitarian aid to earthquake-stricken areas was sold to Uzbekistan at speculative prices. It was not for nothing that A. Akayev said that for many leaders the main thing is the cynical principle that you can earn quite a bit of money even from the collapse of a state.

At a meeting with militia and national security committee workers, the president said straight out that unless the law enforcement organs are able to put a stop to this outrage, a social explosion is inevitable.

Unfortunately, even such alarming warnings have not disturbed the calm indifference of the government. The documents on implementing emergency measures were not prepared by the deadline. Then they were returned for further work. A new commission was created. But time is passing and every lost day exacerbates the economic situation.

However, it is not just the economic situation that is at stake. For several weeks now discussions have been going on in the republic about an imminent sharp increase in rent. The rates for heating, electricity, gas, and hot water are supposed to go up many times over. Through habit, municipal employees are distributing it all "per capita." With this kind of distribution, poor families with many children are the worst off. The fact that wages in Kyrgyzstan are the lowest among all its neighbors adds to the dissatisfaction.

And then an extremely clumsy and totally inexplicable step was taken in terms of foreign policy. Our newspaper has already given an assessment of Kyrgyzstan's decision to open an embassy in Jerusalem itself. This defiance of UN decisions is incomprehensible to a great many people.

On these grounds, the most varied forces have now united in opposition to the president—from Communists to extreme nationalists. Clearly this union is temporary. But nevertheless it clearly stresses the fact that the time of unanimous reckless support for President A. Akayev has ended.

And that is fairly dangerous before the upcoming emergency session of the Supreme Soviet. Its initiator was A. Akayev himself. At it, he wants to raise extremely bluntly the issue of the future of the young independent state and the implementation of emergency measures to save it from catastrophe. But I think that he himself will find this session difficult.

Foreign Minister Rejects Close Ties With Israel

LD1002164293 Tehran IRNA in English 1531 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow, Feb. 10, IRNA—Kyrgyz Foreign Minister, Ednan Karabayev in a meeting with Iran's Ambassador to Bishkek Morteza Tavasoli Wednesday [10 February] rejected close relations of his country with the Zionist regime. He said his country is not thinking of opening an embassy in Tel Aviv.

Karabayev said that his country is part of the Islamic world and gives priority to close relations with the Islamic states especially the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Kyrgyz minister stressed on unity and a coordinated stand of the Islamic states in defending the rights of the Palestinian nation. He said the last month visit to Israel of President Askar Akayev was not of political significance in Bishkek's foreign policy and will have no effect on firm stand of Kyrgyz nation and government in supporting the Palestinian cause and the right for self-determination of the Palestinian people.

Karabayev said that President Akayev attaches special importance to Tehran-Bishkek relations and bilateral cooperation in the fields of oil and transportation. He said that he will visit Iran in the near future to open the [item incomplete as received]

High-Ranking Jordanian Delegation Arrives for Talks

LD1002130993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1205 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By KYRGYZTAG correspondent Natalia Voroshilova for TASS]

[Text] Bishkek February 10 TASS—A governmental delegation headed by Prince Ra'd Bin-Zayd became the first Jordanian delegation of such high level to visit Kyrgyzstan.

On Wednesday [10 February] the guests met local government members to discuss prospects of economic and humanitarian cooperation, as well as exchange of specialists.

Talks were also held on possible Jordanian import of Kyrgyz cotton and construction materials.

Prime Minister in Brussels for Talks With EC

LD1102023493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2355 GMT 11 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shashkov]

[Text] Brussels, 11 Feb—Kyrgyzstan Prime Minister Tursunbek Chyngyshev arrived today in Brussels on a short working visit during which he will hold talks with representatives of the leadership of the Commission of the European Communities [CEC]. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told by the CEC press service that the state and prospects of the development of relations between the EC and Kyrgyzstan, in particular issues connected with the conclusion of a treaty on partnership and cooperation, will be discussed at the talks.

Tajikistan

Four Shells Fired at Panj From Afghanistan

LD1102074093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0730 GMT 11 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow February 11 TASS—Four jet shells were fired at the southern Tajik city of Panj from across the border with Afghanistan last night, TASS learned from the press centre of the Russian frontier troops.

One of the shells exploded on the territory of a Russian border guard unit in Panj. However, no casualties were reported among the border guards, according to the source.

Afghanistan's Dostam Meets With People's Front Chairman

LD1002174193 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Russian 0400 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] In Lower Panj, there was a meeting between Sangak Safarov, the chairman of the People's Front of the Republic of Tajikistan, and Gen. Abdorrashid Dostam, deputy defense minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. Their conversation dealt with the return of Tajikistan's refugees to their homes, transforming the border between the two states into a border of friendship, and the organizing of border trade and other issues.

Kabul Ready for Dialogue

LD1102101293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0702 GMT 11 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Dushanbe February 11 TASS—The Kabul authorities are ready for a dialogue with the government of Tajikistan about the repatriation of Tajik refugees, who abandoned their native land by virtue of various reasons and who found refuge in the neighbouring state, General Dostam, Afghan deputy defence minister and leader of the National and Islamic Movement of Afghanistan, stated during a meeting with Sangak Safarov, chairman of the Tajikistan Popular Front.

As an ITAR-TASS correspondent learned from informed sources on Thursday, the two leaders' meeting took place in one of border villages of Tajikistan.

Afghan Captives Tell of Opposition Activities

LD0902143993 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 0400 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Armed Afghan groups have been actively supporting oppposition forces in Tajikistan. Tajikistan's State Committee for National Security has irrefutable proof of the involvement of people from the northern provinces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan in fighting on the side of armed opposition groups in the south of Tajikistan. Foreign journalists visiting Tajikistan were told this at a news conference by Rakhmadov, deputy chairman of the republic's State Committee for National Security.

The foreign correspondents received answers from senior officials of the republic's State Committee for National Security who talked about the activity of Afghan mujahiddin on the territory of Tajikistan.

At the news conference the journalists were given an opportunity to talk to two detained Afghans who crossed the state frontier of Tajikistan illegally in August last year and brought weapons to opposition groups. The Afghans admitted that they had been victims of deception by opposition groups who had used them in return for monetary gain. At the same time the prisoners noted that they have no complaints against the conditions under which they are being held and that they are being given the medical assistance they need.

The foreign journalists also had an opportunity to talk to a man from Shaartuzskiy rayon who twice crossed the Tajik-Afghan border illegally. He talked of the fate of Tajik refugees in Afghanistan who have been forcibly moved to the neighboring country.

The correspondents also talked to a girl of local nationality who had been detained. She was a member of an armed opposition group. She was detained by fighters from the People's Front and talked about the actions of the group in a district in Dushanbe, and in (Avuli), in particular, where completely innocent people were held hostage in an opposition headquarters.

Report Links Future Tajik Army to Russian Division

AU1002182893 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 9 Feb 93 p 5

[Yuriy Kushko report from Dushanbe: "A Russian Division—A Basis for the Tajik Army?"]

[Text] During his visit to Dushanbe, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, discussed with the Tajik leadership the question of cooperation in the military sphere between Tajikistan and Russia.

The Tajik side is counting upon assistance from its northern neighbor in forming and bringing up to strength its own armed forces. It is expected that the Russian 201st Division that is stationed there will become a basis for them.

Grachev's visit took place prior to the signing of a large-scale agreement between Russia and Tajikistan scheduled for the middle of February. The military question occupies a special place in the draft agreement.

Economic, Trade Agreement Signed With Lithuania

OW1002224693 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1946 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuania and Tajikistan concluded a bilateral trade and economic agreement. The accord, which was signed in Dushanbe on Wednesday [10 February], provides for the parties' mutual annual supplies amounting to $5 Mn [million].

Head of the Lithuanian delegation, Minister of Industry and Trade Albertas Sinevicius, said that Lithuania will supply to Tajikistan compressors, refrigerators and foodstuffs, getting in return cotton, aluminium and other goods.

Premier Says Ethnic Koreans Welcome in Tajikistan

SK1002231193 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Interview with Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov, premier of the Republic of Tajikstan, by Kim Song-ki on 9 February; place not given—recorded; Premier's answers given in Russian with Korean subtitles provided]

[Text] [Kim Song-ki] Many people are suffering from hardships caused by internal conflicts in Tajikistan. Among those suffering are many Korean refugees. Would you like to tell us your plan concerning them?

[Abdullodzhanov] We are taking steps for their repatriation to Tajikistan. We plan to support them and other ethnic groups in restoring their houses destroyed by the conflict. It is well known that the ethnic Koreans are doing a good job in the agricultural and industrial fields. I will help them in their farming activities in Tajikstan.

[Kim] I was told that the Tajik language had recently become the official language in Tajikistan. This step will affect the ethnic Koreans as well as other minorities. Many people are concerned that this step will force them to be expelled from Tajikstan. What is your opinion on this?

[Abdullodzhanov] That we decided to use the Tajik language as our national language is not designed to exclude other ethnic groups. The Tajik language should be used in places where the Tajik people live. We will allow people to use their various languages in places

where many ethnic groups live. The Russian language will be our secondary foreign language. We will not force ethnic Koreans to leave Tajikistan who have greatly contributed to the development of Tajikistan.

[Kim] Diplomatic relations between the ROK and the Republic of Tajikistan is now in its initial stage. For the development of relations between the two countries, we should strengthen diplomacy and accelerate economic cooperation. What do you think is the best way to promote them?

[Abdullodzhanov] We need to learn something from the ROK's experience in its economic development. When the present situation in Tajikistan becomes stable, we will seek ways to practically promote relations with the ROK. The embassy will be established soon.

Figures Show Economy in 'Catastrophic State'

LD1102120693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1138 GMT 11 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe February 11 TASS—The national economy of Tajikistan is in a catastrophic state. This is borne out by the figures for last year released by the National Statistical Board and published by the local press today.

The many-months-long armed confrontation has produced a sharp slump in industry and agriculture, the output of which has dropped by one quarter or even more. The programme for capital construction was practically thwarted. According to preliminary figures, the economic damage runs into more than 200 billion roubles. The republic has ushered in the new year with a 25 billion budget deficit.

Chairman of the Tajik Council of Ministers Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov said that the republic was badly in need of urgent aid from the CIS and the world community. He told ITAR-TASS that the economic difficulties, now experienced by the republic, were clearly understood abroad. An agreement in principle was reached with the governments of Russia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, which have promised to grant Tajikistan an interest-free credit of 286 billion roubles for a period of 20 years. The credit will be mainly spent on deliveries of modern machinery, equipment, material supplies and foodstuffs. The governments of Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and several other countries have also expressed readiness to make substantial investments in the Tajik economy.

At the same time, the chairman of the Tajik Council of Ministers noted that no outside aid could revitalise the republican economy, if the Tajik people failed to realise their responsibility to the country and to get down to really hard work.

Turkmenistan

Niyazov Endorses Joint Ventures in Oil Industry

OW1002182193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1659 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Saparmurad Niyazov on Wednesday [10 February] endorsed a resolution on creating joint ventures with foreign companies. The country's two oil companies—Turkmenneft and Chelekenmorneftgaz—are authorised to strike deals on joint oil projects with their counterparts from other countries.

On January 23, Larmag Energy Group of the Netherlands, Nobele Drilling International Ltd of the United States, Bridas of Argentina and Eastpac International of the United Arab Emirates won tenders for oil prospecting in the country's west and the right to form partnerships with Turkmenian oil companies.

Experts say the resolution creates a legal groundwork for forming joint ventures, something that was absent until recently. Deputy Prime Minister Nazar Suyunov, who is responsible for implementing the resolution, told INTERFAX that it served to reaffirm Turkmenistan's earnest intention to attract foreign investment to help towards the country's economic recovery. He said the resolution "was paving the way into Turkmenistan by other companies and states because of lifting political and economic risks involved".

Economic Relations With Russia Viewed

PM1002182593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Feb 93 First Edition p 6

[Georgiy Smolnikov report: "To Iran for Seed Potato"]

[Text] Ashgabat—Hardly a day goes by without Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov receiving businessmen from the West or East. The republic's newspapers abound in reports of the establishment of joint ventures, the construction of new factories and plants, and work on transnational projects.

Given the truly inexhaustible natural wealth of this southern country, its untapped labor market, and in addition its stable sociopolitical situation, it is certainly no accident that businesspeople from all over the world are attracted here.

But what about Russia? At first glance the mutual relations that prevail between the two countries are not bad. By making an unprecedented decision to establish joint armed forces, the Gordian knot was immediately severed, the main point being that Russian servicemen received firm guarantees of the protection of their social and civil rights from the Turkmen state.

They promptly agreed the issue of the "zero option" in the matter of the former USSR's foreign debt, which

gave them a free hand regarding the development of partner relations in some mutual foreign currency settlements. Russia is resolutely meeting its commitments. For its part, Turkmenistan is keeping its word regarding deliveries of cotton fiber, grapes, vegetables, and melon crops. But against the background of activity by partners from countries further afield, the economic cooperation with Russia clearly seems inappropriate to its real potential.

In the opinion of N. Khanamov, the member of the government responsible for providing the country with resources, the principal reason for this lies in the internal difficulties Russia is going through:

"We have signed a trade and economic agreement with Russia. Russia is still our main trading partner. It accounts for up to 50 percent of our total commodity turnover, and we are extremely keen to receive deliveries of Russian cars, tractors, various sorts of equipment, metal, construction materials, and timber. Of course, it is not for us to assess the political situation in Russia, but our republic is experiencing problems owing to the far-reaching sovereignization that is going on there, right down to rayon level. So we have to think who we are dealing with when we implement a particular agreement..."

Unlike the minister, we can call things by their proper names. In order to obtain pipes from a plant in the Urals, the Turkmen side had to agree to a triple exchange. Cotton fiber was sold to foreign firms, the foreign currency earned from this was used to purchase food, and only then did the suppliers dispatch the pipes to Ashgabat by the barter method.

The Turkmen Government is sympathetic with regard to the processes going on in Russia. But common sense is increasingly forcing it to turn its attention to other partners. The extremely lukewarm investment policy which Russian ruling circles are pursuing in Central Asia is also encouraging this. This is manifested, for example, with regard to the planning and construction of the transcontinental railroad that will link Istanbul, Tehran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and China. But participation in the revival of the ancient "silk road" could in the future give extensive regions of Russia a direct trade outlet to the Near East, China, and South Korea. Russia's position is also extremely amorphous with regard to prospecting projects, development of the Karakumy resources, establishment of new transport arteries on the Caspian, and joint exploitation of its wealth. As far as joint ventures and branches of Russian firms are concerned, these may literally be counted on the fingers of one hand.

The other day I met with A. Churiyev, director of a suburban potato-growing kolkhoz.

"I have visited several Russian oblasts," the chairman says sadly. "I have attempted to reach agreement on mutually advantageous purchases of seed potato. I get the impression that right now everyone is a do-it-yourself president. The price is being distorted to such an extent that my hair began to stand on end... Clearly, we will have to go cap in hand to Iran. Although it has to be admitted that their potatoes cannot compare with Russian ones—they are far worse."

Armenia

Ministry Announces Rupture of Temporary Gas Pipeline

OW1102104993 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0949 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The temporary gas pipeline which was installed in Marneul region of Georgia was ruptured at 4:00 a.m. on February 11, Interfax was informed by the Armenian Energy and Fuel Ministry. The branch-line was installed on January 31 after an explosion in the main pipeline in the Marneul region in the early hours of January 23.

Armenia, therefore, finds itself without gas again. Interfax is able to announce that the metro in Yerevan has ceased to operate due to insufficient electricity supplies.

An Armenian delegation led by Yervand Zakarian, the republic's fuel and energy minister, has left for Georgia to ascertain the reasons for January's explosion.

The Armenians are not ruling out the possibility that the explosion was another act of sabotage. The Marneul region of Georgia is populated mainly by Azerbaijanis.

Opposition Rejects President's Proposal on Authority Structure

LD1002110093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1023 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan February 10 TASS—Armenia's political forces can form a really national government only after the re-distribution of authority between the Armenian parliament and president and the revision of the corresponding laws of the republic, says a statement of leaders of the Armenian revolutionary Dashnaktsutyun Party, which was published today. The statement was supported by a number of other opposition forces of the republic. It is only on these terms that we are ready to cooperate with the Armenian authorities and to take upon ourselves part of the responsibility for the future of the republic, the document said.

The statement described as "inadmissible" the suggestion, made in parliament by Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, that the political parties should submit proposals on the makeup of the Armenian government, which is being formed now. The opposition believes the initiative of the president is not adequate to the crisis situation in Armenia.

In the opinion of Dashnaktsutyun, the absence of a constitution is the main reason for government resignation, which occur regularly in Armenia, for the catastrophic political, economic and social situation in the republic, as well as the crisis of the legislative and executive branches of authority. An unclear situation with the division of authority, as well as the supremacy of the president's authority over the parliament and government of the republic which proved to be ineffective, are also to blame for it, the statement pointed out.

In this situation any cabinet of minister, irrespective of its makeup, will be denied an opportunity to act on its own, will be actually doomed to become another scapegoat and will share the fate of previous governments, the Dashnaktsutyun Party believes.

The Republican and Democratic Parties of Armenia, the National Democratic and Christian Democratic Unions, as well as the Constitutional Law Alliance, i.e. about the whole range of political forces of Armenia, supported the Dashnaktsutyun statement.

Azerbaijani Shelling of Karabakh Reported

NC1002183193 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1630 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] KARABAKH NEWS AGENCY cites self-defense forces headquarters that Stepanakert, the capital of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, was shelled with long-range artillery from military bases in Agdamskiy Rayon at 0830 yesterday. Nine shells were fired on the city. Fortunately, there were no casualties, but some material damage was caused.

The situation remains tense in Mardakertskiy Rayon. Every Azerbaijani attempt to redress its recent defeats has failed. Contrary to Azerbaijani Defense Ministry Press Service claims, the villages of Vaguas, Drmbon, and Mekhmana are under the full control of the Armenian self-defense forces. Armenian freedom fighters also control the Mardakert-Kelbadzhar road.

The situation is relatively calm along the Lachin humanitarian corridor. The Goris-Lachin-Stepanakert road is functioning unimpeded.

The Armenian Defense Ministry Press Service informed us that the villages of Karashen, Kornidzor, and Khntsoresk in Gorisskiy Rayon were shelled with Grad rockets last night. Four residents were killed and two are missing. A relative calm prevailed in the rest of Armenia's border regions last night and this morning.

Azerbaijan

People's Front Executive Committee Issues Appeal

NC1002154793 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 9 Feb 93

["Appeal" issued by the Azerbaijan People's Front Executive Committee on the republic's military and political situation; place and date issued not given]

[Text] This is the fifth year of war in Azerbaijan. Some of our territory has been occupied by the Armenian occupationists as a result of the weakness of the former

puppet administration and its criminal state of inactivity on establishing the republic's armed forces. Enduring all this, the people hoped that the Azerbaijan People's Front [APF] would end the inauspicious situation in the military domain and significantly change the trend in the war when it came to power. The initial success achieved in Gorenboyskiy, Terterskiy, and Agdere Rayons further strengthened that hope.

However, incidents since that time, including unsuccessful operations; the irreparable trend of weakening discipline in the Army; the gradual increase in desertions, which has reached the level of national treachery; the state of irresponsibility, [word indistinct]; disinterest in the Armed Forces; the uncontrollable quarreling due to personal ambitions among various military employees; the embezzlement of large amounts of state funds in the Armed Forces, which has become a normal process, has had the effect of nullifying the gains achieved at the expense of martyrs' blood.

The prolonging of the war and the gradual loss of the conviction that the military situation would improve after the incidents in May 1992 not only harmed the APF's prestige but threatened efforts to construct a national state.

Recent incidents in Zangelanskiy and Agdere Rayons have confirmed once again that destructive forces that have infiltrated the Armed Forces—that is, agents of imperialism and the diaspora Armenians—wish to use the unsuccessful combat operations carried out by inexperienced commanders to create a state of no confidence and a wave of skepticism on the new government's ability to resolve the Karabakh crisis. Regrettably, the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of National Security have not been seriously concerned by the irreparable trend of the weakening discipline in the Armed Forces, the failure to establish a united command headquarters, and widespread desertions.

In particular, we have been very worried by incidents in Agdere Rayon. In spite of the orders given by the president, who is the supreme commander, to strengthen the defensive lines in Agdere Rayon, Suret Guseynov, commander of the corps units in the region, moved his men and military vehicles from their combat positions to Gendzha, leaving the towns in the rayon undefended. These areas have now been occupied by the Armenians.

Facts indicate once again that forces favoring a wide-ranging coup were behind this destructive situation. Guseynov's failure to comply with the supreme commander's orders must be regarded as a military crime. Criminal charges must be brought against all those responsible for the incidents in Agdere.

The APF Executive Committee is convinced that serious changes must be made in the Defense Ministry's structure and extremely serious measures, including the death penalty, must be taken against those who disrupt military discipline and against those who desert from the battlefields. The APF Executive Committee urges the people at this difficult time to be vigilant and to rally around the concept of a strong and independent Azerbaijan to remove the Armenian occupationists from our territory.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Armenian 'Aggression'

LD1002091693 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] The TURAN agency reports that the Azerbaijan Foreign Ministry has circulated a statement saying that Armenia's escalation of hostilities in Karabakh has caused many victims among the civilian population. The timing of these increased military actions coincides with the provision of humanitarian aid to Armenia by a number of countries. Related to this, the Foreign Ministry believes the humanitarian aid is being used primarily for military purposes. The statement notes that the latest Armenian aggression in upper Karabakh could bring to an end CSCE efforts toward a peaceful settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict and wreck the meeting scheduled for 22 February in Rome.

Defense Ministry Communique Details 9 Feb Clashes

NC1002184393 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 10 Feb 93

["Communique" issued by the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry's Analytical Information Center in Baku on 10 February—read by announcer]

[Text] In an effort to destroy our military forces, enemy units moved to worsen the situation in several areas on 9 February. However, Azerbaijan National Army units moved against them in all cases and foiled their intentions.

Armenian military forces, supported by helicopters, violated our state border near Beylik in Kel'badzharskiy Rayon at about 1700 yesterday. Thanks to timely measures, our units forced the enemy to retreat to an area far away from our border at about 1900. Our troops maintained their vigilance and discovered an Armenian gang near the strategically important Agdere-Kel'badzhar highway. The group, which was completely crushed, was sent to carry out acts of sabotage on the highway.

Azerbaijan's military sub-units have heroically fought along the entire battlefront, breaking the enemy's resistance and putting them down all throughout the front line. Our troops counterattacked and liberated [word indistinct] from Armenian occupation yesterday. They also besieged enemy groups in various areas.

Azerbaijani units and internal forces broadened the scope of their counterattacks and evicted the occupationists from [word indistinct] Kochohot today, placing the town under their control.

The Azerbaijani military forces are currently waging bloody battles along the entire battlefront to retake all the lost areas.

Agdamskiy and Fizulinskiy Rayons were fired on from the occupied areas in Karabakh today. The situation in the other disputed areas was peaceful.

Offensive Launched in Lachinsk District

LD1002205893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2002 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By AZERTAC correspondent Gekchekkhanum Tagieva for TASS]

[Text] [no dateline as received]—The national Army and Interior Ministry troops of Azerbaijan have increased the offensive, the press-centre of the Azeri Defence Ministry reports. According to the report, "as a result of the counter-attack, the state border of Azerbaijan between Gimgimly and Gazyderye in the Lachinsk district has been restored." Azeri Armed Forces are fighting on all fronts in order to reinstate the positions, which were surrendered under the enemy's offensive on February 5-6.

According to the press-centre, the Agdam, Fizulinsk and Zangelansk districts came under repeated shelling today.

Elchibey Abolishes Post of Western Region Representative

OW1002214293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1945 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President of Azerbaijan Abulfaz Elchibey abolished the position of plenipotentiary representative to the president in the regions of western Azerbaijan. A decree signed by Elchibey Wednesday [10 February] states that the apparatus and property of this structure is to be transferred to the president's Administration of Affairs.

The position of plenipotentiary representative was introduced in the beginning of 1992 by former president of the republic Ayaz Mutalibov when the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh and along the Armenian border once again escalated.

Iranian Ambassador Discusses Cooperation, Interests

LD1002134693 Tehran IRNA in English 1314 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Astara, Gilan Province, Feb. 10, IRNA—Iranian Ambassador to Baku, 'Ali Akbar Nehavandian discussed issues of mutual interest in a meeting with acting President [as received] of Azerbaijan Panah Guseynov in Baku Tuesday afternoon [9 February].

The two officials also discussed ways of promoting bilateral political, economic and cultural cooperation.

In the meeting, Mohammad Sadeq Touri was introduced as Iranian consul general in the Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan.

Russian Customs Duties Threaten Economy

PM1002151993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Feb 93 First Edition p 6

[Arif Useynov report: "Diktat Harmful to Market"]

[Text] Baku—For the whole of last week the republic's press has been anxiously "mulling over" the topic of the introduction of new customs rules for export and import commodity exchange between Russia and Azerbaijan.

There is a reason for this panic: Under the new rules, it is planned to levy a 65-percent state duty—in European currency units [ECU], not rubles—on goods and products imported from Russia. For the Azerbaijani economy, which already has one foot in the grave, this innovation threatens disaster—there is no foreign currency potential here to pay such a draconian duty.

For Azerbaijan this is unprofitable three times over: Production is geared to subassemblies and metal products manufactured at Russian enterprises. On the other hand, for example, the republic must export up to 70 percent of its raw cotton and 80 percent of its wine-making ingredients, oil, and tobacco leaves if these are to be turned into finished products. Russia needs equipment for oil extraction—Baku's enterprises, which are in a monopoly position, sell on the outside market more than 80 percent of their hardware, which is in desperately short supply, paying for imported metal in ECU.

Who profits by this? Economic ties with the northern neighbor changed qualitatively in the fall—Abbas Abbasov, the republic's first deputy prime minister, concluded mutually advantageous treaties with Moscow and St. Petersburg City Halls. The southern republic is linking its raw materials base and refining sector to these cities' markets through joint ventures and major investment. Trade missions are being set up in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Baku with a view to regulating ties. It was hoped to go even further and extend horizontal "trade threads" between Baku and Russia's major industrial centers.

Can it really be true that these mutually advantageous programs will be canceled out by customs duties? What will happen to the large-scale economic cooperation program based on the Russian-Azerbaijani interstate treaty? Following a telephone conversation between the Azerbaijani president and Russian President B. Yeltsin, who promised to provide assistance, hopes emerged that the situation would change.

In this difficult situation Azerbaijan has drastically increased the price of all goods and products, thus locking up its market and hoping that cheaper goods will flow in from other countries. They have waited for two months—a third month has begun. The warehouses of

plants and factories are bursting with goods. The effectiveness of economic cooperation is judged by commodity turnover. For the time being, however, cooperation is not looking too good—whether it is reckoned in rubles, manats, or ECU.

Grain Stock 'Depleted'; Turkey Promises Aid

NC1002202093 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] People have lined up in front of Baku shops the past few days as rumors are spreading that grain stocks have been depleted and the republic may be facing the threat of hunger.

However, the Ministry of Grain Products has disclosed the following: The ministry dispatched a delegation to Turkey some time ago. The members of the delegation have returned. The objective of their visit was to purchase grain products and flour. Necmettin Cevheri, Turkey's minister of agriculture, has assured the delegation that the people of Azerbaijan will not suffer from a shortage of grain products. The agreement reached between Turkey and Azerbaijan on [words indistinct] remains in effect. [passage indistinct]

Georgia

Shevardnadze on 'Serious Offensive' Planned on Sukhumi

LD1002191293 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By correspondent N.Kandiashvili; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Over the past 24 hours, the situation in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict has remained tense. Ardzinba's Gudauta troops attacked Georgian positions by the Gumista River. Separate exchanges of fire were heard in the direction of the Ochamchira frontline. There are no victims or casualties.

In the meantime, the Georgian press and public are disturbed by information from Radio Liberty on the existence of forces in Georgia whose purpose it is to attack and hand over the town of Sukhumi to Gudauta leaders. In this connection, Eduard Shevardnadze stated in an interview with the Vesti program today:

[Begin Shevardnadze recording] Large amounts of are being concentrated in Gudauta now. There is information that a serious offensive on Sukhumi is being planned. Today I am forced to convene the defense council [sovet oborony] and take additional measures to halt this venture. [end recording]

Ardzinba: Shevardnadze Trying To Escalate Conflict

OW1102131893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1220 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Vladislav Ardzinba, the speaker of the Abkhazian parliament, told INTERFAX Thursday [11 February] that Wednesday's statement by the Georgian leader on concentrating Abkhazian forces near Sukhumi was "nothing other than another attempt to escalate the conflict. [no closing quotation marks as received]

In Ardzinba's opinion such a move was important to Tbilisi "in order to divert the attention of Georgian public and world opinion from the fact that the Georgian leadership was incapable of making the transition to a democratic form of administration, establishing peace in the republic or resolving economic problems."

Ardzinba said that the Russian foreign ministry's request for the warring sides in Abkhazia not to obstruct the delivery of humanitarian aid to the blockaded town of Tkvarcheli indicated that "all responsibility for any possible disruption to the humanitarian aid effort rests with the Georgians who have, from the very beginning, attempted to hinder this mission of good will."

"Abkhazia is not laying down any political conditions for the continuation of humanitarian aid to Tkvarcheli," the Abkhazian leader pointed out.

Democratic Party Will Not Participate in Emergency Meeting

AU1002101693 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Here is some information that we have just received from the IVERIA independent news agency:

As is known, on the initiative of the Georgian National Independence Party, the second emergency conference of the Georgian National Liberation Movement ill be held in the Philarmonic Hall in Tbilisi on 26 February 1993.

In connection with this, Giorgi Chanturia, chairman of the National Democratic Party [NDP], said the following to IVERIA's correspondent: No National Liberation Movement exists without the National Democratic Party. Without our party, discussion of this movement is practically unimaginable. Our parties will not participate in any way in the work of this conference because this conference amounts to nothing more than a discussion among politically bankrupt groups that are [word indistinct] somehow their existence. (?These) groups participated in the parliamentary elections and now they should work (?with good will) in parliament and not in any kind of conferences. I would advise them to stop delivering ultimatums since, when someone delivers an ultimatum, he has to have power. Not one of these political groups has any political power.

Their sole support comes from an already very small (?number) of supporters of the former government. [passage indistinct]

Shevardnadze To Visit Armenia, Ukraine, Turkmenistan

OW1002202793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1945 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A delegation from Georgia, headed by Eduard Shevardnadze, will make an official visit to Armenia in the near future, sometime around February 18. Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chikvaidze announced this at a session of the presidium of the Georgian government held Wednesday [10 February] in Tbilisi.

During the visit, the minister said, they plan to sign a packet of agreements and treaties on friendship and collaboration in political, trade and economic, and other spheres.

Chikvaidze also said that the dates for the visits of Georgian delegations headed by Shevardnadze to Ukraine and Turkmenistan will be established in the near future.

This April Shevardnadze will make a visit to Germany.

Defense Ministry Says Situation in Adzharia 'Calm'

LD1002155493 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1430 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Contradictory reports about the situation in Adzharia have recently appeared in the public media. For instance, a Mayak correspondent has reported that Russian troop units stationed on the territory of the autonomous republic were being put on enhanced combat readiness. An ITAR-TASS correspondent, on his part, has described this information as false. We have addressed the Press Center of the Russian Defense Ministry and asked Colonel Goncharov, a senior employee of the press center, to clarify the situation in Adzharia for us.

[Begin Goncharov recording] Some of the public media have carried reports about possible provocations by individual illegally armed groups against Russian troops and military facilities in Adzharia. In this connection, the General Staff of the Russian Federation Armed Forces has stated that the situation regarding Russian military units in this particular region is calm, on the whole.

At the same time, the troops possess all necessary means to put an end to any illegal actions, encroachment upon the safety of servicemen and their families, and upon their arms, military equipment, and possessions, no matter who the initiator of those actions may be. The protection of military facilities has been reinforced. Approaches to warehouses where ammunition and arms are preserved have been mined. Mobile reinforced groups have been set up. The command is cooperating with local authorities. Servicemen remain patient and calm and are carrying out military exercises as scheduled. There are no changes in the situation at present. [end recording]

Russian Troops Strengthen Guard

LD1102133993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1315 GMT 11 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow February 11 TASS—Although the situation around the Russian troops stationed in Adzharia, an autonomous republic within Georgia, remains quiet, the guarding of military objects was strengthened, ammunition dumps were mined and mobile armoured groups were created, TASS learned by telephone from the officer on duty at the headquarters of Russian troops in Transcaucasia on Thursday [11 February].

The actions were triggered by press reports that armed provocations are possible in Adzharia which borders on Turkey.

Reports also claimed that Georgian authorities plan an armed intervention in Adzharia like they did in Abkhazia, but Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader, denied the rumours.

Text of Friendship Treaty With Azerbaijan

AU1102091293 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 5 Feb 93 p 1

["Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Relations Between the Republic of Georgia and the Republic of Azerbaijan" signed in Baku on 3 February]

[Text] The Republic of Georgia and the Republic of Azerbaijan, henceforth to be called the high contracting parties,

confirming their devotion to the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act and Charter of Paris for a New Europe, and other CSCE documents,

certain that the closeness of the history, culture, and traditions of the two countries and friendly relations will create the necessary basis for multilateral and close cooperation,

believing that the development of friendship, good-neighborliness, and mutually advantageous cooperation between them corresponds to the fundamental interests of the peoples of both states and serves the cause of guaranteeing peace and security,

agree to the following:

Article 1

The high contracting parties will develop their relations as friendly states. They will be steadfastly guided by the principles of state sovereignty and independence, equal rights and noninterference in one another's internal affairs, the nonuse of force or threat of force including economic and other methods, the inviolability of one another's territorial integrity and borders, the resolution of problems by peaceful means, and the conscientious fulfillment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and obligations, and also by other universally recognized rules of international law.

Article 2

The high contracting parties will promote the development of multilateral relations in the political, commercial and economic, and cultural spheres established on the basis of mutual advantageousness and mutual trust. With this aim, the parties will conclude separate agreements in these and other spheres.

Article 3

The high contracting parties will direct joint efforts toward the strengthening of international peace, stability, and security and will give special attention to the creation of a regional system of security and trust.

The parties will cooperate closely within the framework of international organizations to contribute to positive changes in the region and the world.

Article 4

To direct relations in a coordinated manner, the high contracting parties will periodically hold consultations on questions of regional and world importance to both parties at least twice a year.

The parties will agree on the agenda, place, and dates of the consultations through diplomatic channels.

Article 5

Each high contracting party will be able to summon the other party for rapid consultations on questions of mutual security. The parties will exchange information and will agree on possible measures to deal with situations that present a danger to mutual security.

Article 6

The high contracting parties will refrain from participating in such actions and measures that may be directed against the second party and will not permit their territory to be used for aggression or the implementation of other acts of violence against the party participating in this treaty. With this aim, the parties will take all measures to halt attempts to use their territory for the creation of groups of saboteurs and hired formations and for sending them onto the territory of the second party.

Article 7

The high contracting parties support the idea of forming a common market of countries in the region of the Black Sea and Caspian Sea. They will cooperate in international economic, financial, and other organizations, agreements, and conventions to increase the effectiveness of these organizations, agreements, and conventions.

Article 8

The high contracting parties will direct their commercial and economic relations on the basis of most-favored-nation treatment.

Through joint efforts, the parties will deepen and extend mutually advantageous economic and scientific and technological cooperation. With this aim, the parties will develop cooperation in the spheres of industry, power engineering, the utilization of natural resources, transport, communications, telecommunications, and other branches of the economy.

Article 9

The high contracting parties will promote the development of mutually advantageous commercial and economic cooperation based on market relations and will ensure the promotion of this cooperation taking into account the protection of capital investments, technologies, and patents and copyright.

By using all means necessary for their support, the parties will promote the development of cooperation between state and private enterprises and also other economic subjects, in particular cooperation between enterprises in the sphere of investment and capital. They will give particular attention to cooperation between small and medium enterprises.

The parties will share each other's experience and will assist one another in the process of the study, formation, and improvement of a market economy.

Article 10

The high contracting parties will exchange information and will formalize separate treaties on concrete questions concerning commercial and economic, scientific and technological, and other types of cooperation and also monetary and credit and financial policy.

The parties will inform one another in time about those decisions in the economic sphere that could harm the economic interests of the second party.

Article 11

The high contracting parties will ensure the unhindered transit of travelers and goods at ports and airports and on railway lines and automobile routes and pipelines located on their territory.

Article 12

The high contracting parties will cooperate to develop and improve bilateral transit and transport communications and the infrastructure of all branches of transport. The parties will adopt all measures to modernize and improve telecommunications, in particular telephone and telex communications and the electronic post.

Article 13

The high contracting parties will create the appropriate conditions for the investment of capital in the economies of both countries and will assist one another in the expansion of technologies.

The parties will pay particular attention to the creation of joint enterprises in the spheres of agriculture, mining, the manufacture of consumer goods, and other branches and also will create all the conditions for the development of joint enterprise.

Article 14

To contribute to lasting ecological security, the high contracting parties will cooperate on a bilateral and multilateral basis in the sphere of environmental protection and the rational utilization of natural resources. They will create, foster, and expand conditions for improving environmental protection, including the quality of the water and air and the soil and forests and also the condition of the plant and animal kingdom.

The parties will participate in the formation of both a regionally and globally coordinated strategy in the sphere of environmental protection.

Article 15

The high contracting parties will promote the development of cooperation and the exchange of experience in the spheres of science, culture, the arts, literature, education, medicine, publishing, radio, television, cinema, tourism, and sport.

The parties will promote the development of cooperation and the expansion of ties and direct contacts between state administrative bodies, public organizations and societies, and cultural, scientific, and educational establishments.

The parties will support contacts between the citizens of the two countries and will conclude a treaty in the sphere of consular cooperation.

Article 16

The high contracting parties affirm their readiness to enable the corresponding state establishments and private persons to master the language and cultural values of the other party. They will support the dissemination of one another's literature.

The parties express their willingness to increase the study of the language and questions connected with Georgia and Azerbaijan in one another's higher and other educational institutions.

The parties will cooperate in the exchange, training, and advanced training of teachers and also in the sphere of the supply of textbooks.

Article 17

The high contracting parties will promote contacts between the citizens of both parties and cooperation between public organizations, political parties, trade unions, churches, mosques, and religious associations, funds, and sporting and other public organizations.

Article 18

Each high contracting party will give a guarantee of civil, political, social, and economic rights and fundamental freedoms to the citizens of the second party resident on their territory in accordance with the universally recognized rules of international law and their own legislation.

Each party grants the citizens of the other party resident on its territory property and personal nonproperty [as published] rights.

Each party protects the rights of its citizens resident on the territory of the other party and affords them protection and support in accordance with the universally recognized rules of international law.

The parties will conclude separate treaties on guaranteeing the protection of the rights of their own citizens resident on the territory of the other party in the sphere of civil, family, and criminal law.

Article 19

The high contracting parties confirm that the protection of the rights of national minorities, in the same way as the fulfillment of duties by national minorities toward a country, is an important factor for the strengthening of peace, stability, and democracy in the Republic of Georgia and in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The parties guarantee to persons who belong to national minorities full and effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms without any form of discrimination in conditions of total equality before the law.

The parties guarantee to persons who belong to national minorities the free expression, preservation, and development of their culture and will not attempt to assimilate them against their will.

The parties guarantee to protect the ethnic, cultural, linguistic, and religious distinctiveness of the national minorities on their territory and to create conditions for promoting this distinctiveness.

The parties assume responsibility for taking effective measures, in the form of the adoption of the corresponding legislative acts, to avert and halt those actions that provoke violence against individuals or groups on the basis of ethnic or religious discrimination, hostility, and hatred.

The parties assume responsibility for taking effective measures to protect the lives and property of individuals or groups who are facing the danger of the threat or acts of violence, discrimination, and hostility on ethnic, linguistic, cultural or religious grounds.

The parties will conclude a treaty on guaranteeing the protection of the rights of those persons who belong to ethnic, linguistic, cultural, and religious minorities.

Article 20

The legal rules existing on the territory of one high contracting party in respect of property belonging to an official and juridical person or to citizens of the other party will be regulated by legislation of the party on which the property is located if other conditions are not provided for by a special agreement existing between the parties.

If one of the parties announces that it owns property on the territory of the second party that is being claimed by a third person or state, the second party is obliged to adopt all measures to protect and preserve this property until the matter under dispute has been resolved and it does not have the right to hand over this property to anyone without the clearly expressed consent of the first party.

Other questions connected with the property of both parties is subject to regulation on the basis of separate treaties.

Article 21

The high contracting parties will actively cooperate in the struggle against organized and international crime, drug trafficking, terrorism, violation of the security of sea and air communications, and the smuggling of cultural artifacts.

The parties will sign separate agreements on these and other questions of mutual interest.

Article 22

Assigning particular importance to cooperation and the development of ties between the parliaments and parliamentarians of both countries, the high contracting parties will promote the development of cooperation in these spheres.

Article 23

Proceeding from the interests of strengthening the defense capability of each party, the high contracting parties will develop cooperation in this sphere on the basis of the corresponding agreements.

Article 24

This treaty is not directed against any other state and does not violate the obligations assumed by the parties toward a third country in bilateral or multilateral treaties.

Article 25

This treaty will be subject to ratification and will come into force on the day that the instruments of ratification have been exchanged.

Article 26

This treaty is concluded for five years.

It will be extended automatically for subsequent periods of five years if one of the parties participating in the treaty does not state in writing its desire to annul it no later than six months before the end of the following five-year period.

Concluded in the city of Baku on 3 February 1993 in two copies, one in Georgian and one in Turkish, each text having equal force.

On behalf of the Republic of Georgia
E. Shevardnadze
On behalf of the Republic of Azerbaijan
A. Elchibey

Envoy to Moscow Urges Negotiations To End Crisis

LD1102030793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1827 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Moscow February 10—"Georgia began its active national liberation movement much earlier, probably the first to do so," Georgia's diplomatic envoy to Moscow Pyotr Chkheidze said in an interview with the newspaper VECHERNYAYA MOSKVA (EVENING MOSCOW).

"Representatives of the party top leadership in the Kremlin warned us, and I was an eye witness, that Georgia can of course become independent but without Abkhazia, Adjaria and South Ossetia. It was in 1988, their emissaries went to Sukhumi and Tskhinvali to urge certain circles to begin a movement of liberation from Georgia. It is now clear that their efforts are yielding fruit," Chkheidze said.

"No problems had ever arisen with the South Ossetia. They were no movements of this kind there. But problems have always existed in Abkhazia." In the passed 30 years, a specific regularity surfaced in Abkhazia: problems exacerbated every ten years, because "every ten years marked an end of two terms of office of the first persons in the autonomous republic, and the time of elections came. If one clan was at power, others whetted their appetites in ten years," Chkheidze said.

"The leaders who sought power aroused the people, using nationalist slogans of course," primarily about lack of rights and about oppression. "As soon as new personalities replaced the old ones, the question was lifted because the new leaders did not need close attention to their region, the wanted to do their business on the quiet. It was a tested system."

"I am saying this with full responsibility that the August (1992) provocation which began the count of victims in the confrontation in Abkhazia, which has been going on for six months already, had been planned in advance."

According to Pyotr Chkheidze, Abkhazia's national income would have sufficed maximum for a week or two. "This means that there are forces outside the republic which support its leaders, and not only morally. There exists a strange regularity. As soon as an understanding on ceasefire is reached, somebody creates another pretext for the exacerbation of the situation. Normalisation of Russo-Georgian relations does not suit somebody."

"Georgia is an independent state and its borders are recognised by the international community. The most sensible way out of the present crisis is through negotiations. The main thing is to put an immediate end to shooting. The Russian Army may stay in Georgia on specially agreed terms," Chkheidze said.

Israel's Perez To Make Spring Visit; To Open Embassy

LD0902181893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1740 GMT 9 Feb 93

[By Georgia news agency correspondent Yuriy Goldman for TASS]

[Text] Tbilisi February 9 TASS—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Perez will pay an official visit to Georgia this coming spring, in time for the opening of the Israeli Embassy in Tbilisi, it was announced during a meeting here today between the Israeli charge d'affaires in Georgia Ioav Behir and the Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chikvaidze.

It was noted that Shim'on Perez's visit to Georgia will prepare Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze's official visit to Israel at an official invitation from that country.

Estonia

Velliste: Government Has Made 'No Concessions' to Russia

WS1002112793 Tallinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in English 1820 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Tallinn, February 9—Estonia's foreign policy towards Russia has not changed, the country's Foreign Minister Trivimi Velliste told ETA in response to accusations by Riigikogu's central faction Monday [8 February].

The central faction said that during past months more than 20 Russian military had entered the country under a permission from Estonia's Ministry of Defence and demanded all permits were made public and the military sent out of the country immediately.

Estonia has made no concessions to Russia, Velliste said.

"No-one has pressed upon any concessions and we do not have the slightest intention of making any," Velliste told ETA.

Riigikogu's state defence commission has no data on changes in Russian military numbers in Estonia, the head of the commission, Rein Helme, told ETA.

Helme accused the central faction in operating with uncontrolled data and called upon international control over the movements of the occupational forces in Estonia.

They have no military secrets here, Helme said and added it was necessary to press for international control especially in places where we have no power to keep an eye on them. Helme specifically referred to the former Soviet nuclear naval base, Paldiski, and the military airport in Amari, the biggest Russian military airport in Estonia.

Russia has all necessary structures in Estonia to suppress Estonia if they wished to, Helme said. It is vital for Estonia to get all those forces out of the country, but we couldn't do it without international control, he said.

Helme promised to raise the question in the North-Atlantic Assembly in Brussels this week.

Defense Force Chief on Russian Request for More Troops

WS1102074293 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1143 GMT 10 Feb 93

[From 10 February RAHVA HAAL, PAEVALEHT, p.1]

[Text] Wednesday, February 10—On his meeting with President Lennart Meri, General Colonel of Russia's Northwestern Army Group Leonid Mayorov applied for the allowance to bring in additional troops. Such a suggestion was grounded by the necessity to organise the withdrawal of Russia's troops as well as control over economic activity and ammunition stores. Chief of Estonian Defence Forces GHQ [general headquarters] Colonel Ants Laaneots expressed his thought that "the Russian Army is gradually screwing the nuts." According to Laaneots, Mayorov refused to tell the total number of Russian military left on Estonian territory, to coordinate the deadline for Russia's army final leave and to organise joint control over the ammunition.

Laaneots was especially worried about the fact that Russia is not willing to publish the total number of troops left. "Lately, the representatives of Russia's Army HQ confirmed to an international commission that there were 4173 men in infantry division, 3600 of them in Estonia. Now they claim that the number is 2.5 times smaller," Laaneots explained.

Mayorov also applied to the President that shooting training could be organised on Estonian territory. At the meeting with veterans later, Mayorov announced that no battalion trainings were made in Estonia in 1992 where shooting would have been trained.

The Estonian side did make no promises to General Mayorov. According to Laaneots, possibly a joint work group will be formed to solve questions connected with Russian troops. Mayorov affirmed that he made a suggestion to Meri to open a hospital for veterans on the basis of former military hospitals in Tallinn and Tartu.

The first announcement Mayorov made at the meeting with veterans, concerned the fact that there is no Soviet Union any more, although for some people it is difficult to admit. Therefore there is no Soviet Army nor Soviet Navy. This statement was received by a loud humming and exclaims "You should be sued for that!" Mayorov fended off the attacks by saying: I did not come here to hold a meeting, let us talk in a matter-of-fact way. Mayorov stressed it that Estonia is an independent country now and it is not possible to dictate a foreign country what to do and should be different. Secondly, socialism in Estonia has come to an end. Thirdly, there is something common in all the three Baltic states when looking at things from the point of view of the Russian military. Russia as well as Estonia are tied with international agreements which will have to be fulfilled. Mutual problems will also be coordinated by agreements but as far as the negotiations are still under way and Estonia is on a stiff position as to the military, the problems of the veterans have left almost untouched. He promised to come to these problems as well, assuring the audience that "Your worries are our worries."

Mayorov announced that he will make no concessions as a representative of Russia. The veterans living in Russia have some certain facilities, but those in Estonia have none. He pointed out some problems with accommodation, pensions etc.

Mayorov had to meet Premier Mart Laar but did not appear in time, therefore the meeting did not take place. Laar wanted to inform Mayorov of illegal business of the

Russian military in Estonia and the growing criminal acts carried out by Russian troops.

Luik Denies Legal Entry of Additional Russian Troops

WS1002123093 Tallinn BNS in English 1013 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Tallinn, Feb 09, BNS—According to data at the disposal of the government, no additional Russian troops have legally come to Estonia recently, Juri Luik, the minister without portfolio in charge of the Estonian-Russian negotiations, told a press conference on Tuesday [9 February]. Also officials at the Border Defence Department say no Russian military have entered Estonia in a legal way in the past two months.

Luik characterized as baseless claims by the opposition Centrist faction of Estonia having concluded agreements with Russia at the talks to allow additional troops into the country.

"I confirm that no act, agreement or decision to make legal any additional troops coming to Estonia have been concluded at the negotiations. The Russian party has on several occasions made a proposal to allow into Estonia troops who would help arrange the withdrawal of the Russian army. Thousands of proposals are made at the negotiations, but this doesn't mean that we agree to them," Luik said.

He told reporters he will read a report before the parliamentary state defence commission in one of the next few days. But he determined as "not too viable" a demand by the Centrist faction, which suggested Luik's delegation at the talks should achieve Russia's agreement to pull its troops out from Tallinn within one month's time. "The withdrawal of troops from Tallinn is going on, there are already almost no Russian tanks left here," he added.

Centrist faction's Olev Anton, commenting on Luik's words, told BNS his faction has obtained information about at least 174 Russian soldiers recently brought to the barracks at Tondi, Tallinn. "We cannot provide documental proof of this, and therefore we also cannot present to the government a list of the military brought into Estonia. The point, however, is that the government created a precedent which in recent years has been avoided," Anton explained.

Parliament deputy speaker Edgar Savisaar, Centrist faction, on Monday said the government coalition has been forced to big concessions to Russia. He said his faction had obtained information from "circles close to the government" that additional Russian troops have legally entered the country on a number of different occasions in the past two months.

Next Round of Talks With Russia Slated for 2-4 March

OW1002191193 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1734 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The next round of the Russian-Estonian talks will be held in Lohusalu, in the suburbs of Tallinn, on March 2-4. The two sides have reached this agreement during the meeting in Moscow between the delegation heads of the two countries: Vasili Svirin and Juuri Luik.

Estonian minister Luik told BALTFAX that during the talks the sides will mostly address "ordinary" problems, including military, economic and humanitarian issues. The head of the Estonian delegation is hopeful that during the Lohusalu meeting the delegations would initial the agreements on border zone territories, scientific and technical cooperation, and mutual protection of investments.

In the words of Mr. Luik, the sides are also expected to start resolving the issue of the USSR Vneshekonombank's debt to the Estonian banks in the area of $80 Mn [million].

The Estonian side expressed concern that the "free trade agreement between the two countries is dead due to political reasons. [no closing quotation marks as received] In the words of Mr. Luik, the agreement is frozen as much as the issue of the $80 Mn.

"The Russian side is justifying its actions by the documents issued by the government, the president and the parliament which are putting economic cooperation between the two countries in dependence on the observance of human rights in the republic," the Estonian Minister said.

Latvia

Russia Requests Troops To Help With Withdrawal

LD0802192193 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1801 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Today the leadership of the Northwest Group of Troops of the Russian Army submitted a request to the Latvian Control Office for Russian Troop Withdrawal, to allow into Latvia 328 soldiers to carry out tasks connected with the army withdrawal. It is envisaged that most of them will be sent to the units deployed at Adazi. Others will go to Riga, Dobele, Vangazi, and Cekule, according to Ilgonis Upmalis, director of the office.

However, as Upmalis said, the document only listed 196 names. Upmalis remarked that these soldiers will be admitted to Latvia only when the schedules of withdrawal of the units mentioned in the list are submitted. Upmalis emphasized that the representatives of the

Russian Army must first of all prove that these additional forces will really be used for taking away army property, and not for making up the composition of the units of troops.

DIYENA Spy Scare Story Rejected by Russian Military

PM0902161193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Feb 93 p 4

[Report by Irina Litvinova: "In Latvia They Are Fishing for Russian Spies, but They Cannot Catch Any"]

[Text] The "Russian threat" is becoming the Latvian media's central theme. Now even the authoritative paper DIYENA has marked the latest round of Russian-Latvian talks in Jurmala with a prominent front-page report: "Russian Intelligence Services Still Active in Latvia."

What are the reasons for the spy mania? Are there serious grounds for it? I talked about it with Colonel Konstantin Kuchuk, chief of the military counterintelligence department in Riga:

"Our service will henceforth not range outside the Russian forces in its activities," he said. "They are in Latvia temporarily, only for the duration of their withdrawal. This is stated in the Russian-Latvian joint communique signed in Riga. If we go beyond the fixed framework, an international scandal is is inevitable. We can do without that."

"But the paper DIYENA writes that 'according to Defense Ministry information, more than 20 Russian intelligence services are operating on Latvian territory at the moment. These services are transmitting the information they have gathered to Moscow and when the informnation has been processed it goes to President Yeltsin. It is on the basis of this information that Russia's foreign policy in the Baltic region is shaped.'"

"The paper also cited a fragment from the 'document': 'Secret intelligence centers... are busy recruiting agents and placing them in the government, in the ministries of defense and internal affairs, and in other state structures.' But it is clear to the professional that this kind of hodgepodge is impossible in the work of agents. True, the Latvian defense minister is not a military man. He is a former Latvian SSR Prosecutor's Office investigator and may not appreciate such nuances. But the Latvian Defense Ministry's Information Department is headed by a very competent man, a former colonel in Soviet army intelligence, Auseklis Plyavinsh [name as transliterated]. He might have noticed such incongruities in the 'sensational' material."

For example, Konstantin Pavlovich [Kuchuk] said, it talks about a "border forces special counterintelligence unit" stationed in Riga, at 5, Mayznitsas [name as transliterated] Street. It is written that "these units are carrying out short- and ultrashort-wave radio intercepts."

But, in the first place, the Russian border forces have all been withdrawn from Latvia. Second, the communications subunit's antennas at 5, Mayznitsas are performing a very prosaic task: Keeping Russian military structures in contact. Our telephone links have been severed. And we have to pay almost world prices for city telephones: They are costing us a fortune.

There is no question of the security service and police being involved in any radio intercepts, because that requires special equipment. There are specialists in the Latvian army who have served here and can confirm this.

The colonel drew my attention to another "frontline" facility mentioned in the defense ministry document: The space intelligence center in Ance Volost, Ventspils Rayon. What they are doing there, apparently, is "tracking and recording all artificial satellites flying over the Baltic Sea."

First of all, a purely practical observation: Even if it were true, what threat would it pose to Latvia? It has no artificial satellites. Now the real state of affairs. Yes, there were space intelligence facilities there once. They had nothing to do with the KGB, of course. The USSR Defense Ministry was in charge of them. The electronic warfare battalion was geared to actions in wartime conditions. There have not even been any exercises there for three years, there are practically no personnel left, and the equipment is being removed.

"But you did not answer the question whether you are engaged in the recruitment of inhabitants of Latvia as agents."

"Local television people claim that there is a resident external intelligence agent in the Russian embassy. I put it to them directly: Can you name this resident? If you cannot name him then show just one Latvian recruit on television. Then we will discuss it."

"What is your service needed for in Latvia, then, at the moment?"

"We have to ensure the normal withdrawal of Russian forces. This includes forestalling potential incidents, and the use of weapons is not ruled out. We are engaged in preventing acts of terrorism. We are doing this," the colonel said, "to avoid undesirable incidents between Russian army servicemen and Latvian armed formations. I hope we will be able to ensure that the forces are withdrawn without any incidents."

Commander Says Russian Baltic Fleet To Remain

LD1102025493 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0500 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] Admiral Yegorov, commander in chief of the Baltic Fleet, announced in an interview to STRAZH BALTIKI that it is envisaged to withdraw from Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia 308 subsections of the Baltic Sea Fleet. Forty-nine more will be disbanded. Yegorov announced that despite Russia losing naval military bases in Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, it still retains a normal battle structure with two bases, at Baltiysk and Kronshtadt. The Baltic Fleet has existed, exists, and will exist, the admiral emphasized.

Businessmen's Union Demands Resignation of Cabinet

OW1002191493 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1735 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Latvian businessmen union is once again demanding the Cabinet resignation. Latvian media is carrying various materials on this subject in its Wednesday [10 February] editions. In particular, the businessmen are accusing the Cabinet members of abuse of power, demanding that they be legally prosecuted.

In an interview for Diena daily, Valdis Krisbergs, co-chairman of the businessmen union, said he has documentary evidence that some of Latvian government officials were involved in unlawful activities during privatization of "Radiotehnika" state enterprise.

Budget Deficit Exceeds IMF Level by Three Times

LD0902141293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1311 GMT 9 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Kuchina]

[Text] Riga February 9 TASS—Latvia's budget deficit exceeds 3-fold the level fixed for that country by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and amounts to 1.5 per cent of the gross domestic product. The problem is being discussed for a whole month running in the local press. It will appear in the spotlight again this Wednesday [10 February], when the budget debate will begin in the Latvian parliament. The IMF wants the budget to be approved before March.

One of the reasons behind decreasing budget revenues is the loss of the eastern market due to the disadvantageous exchange rate fixed for unconvertible currencies by the Latvian bank. The latter's refusal to accept them, local industrialists believe, will completely blow up the budget. As much as 91 per cent of all the money is known to obviate the bank today. It is becoming increasingly difficult to collect taxes. Businessmen prefer direct settlements in circumvention of the bank. "We are being forced to avoid all bank transactions, which returns us to the days of primitive barter," Director of the "Compressor" Plant Aldis Zicmanis said. Industrialists believe the crisis will not be overcome as long as politics prevail over the economy.

Parliament Fails To Approve Draft Budget

LD1002230193 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1800 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] The parliament has not confirmed the draft budget for this year submitted by the government. At the plenary sitting today Chairman of the Council of Ministers Ivars Godmanis acquainted the deputies with the results of Latvia's economic and social development in 1992 and also with the predictions for 1993. In turn, Minister of Finance Elmars Silins announced the draft budget submitted by the government, which envisages a budget deficit as high as 2.4 billion Latvian rubles [R]. The government regards this as permissible. If the budget deficit were bigger than R3.6 billion then it would exceed the limits set by the IMF's recommendations. The joint budget commission does, however, consider that the government has, evidently, increased without grounds the volume of total inland production, calculating it as high as R300 billion.

The question on the predictable volumes of the revenue part of the budget is also debatable. Moreover, the submitted draft state budget for 1993 does not ensure the payment of the deficits of local government budgets. According to the calculations by the joint budget commission, this might reach R8 billion.

Therefore the parliament decided not to support the draft budget for this year submitted by the Council of Ministers. The government must rework it as soon as possible.

Favorable Results Seen From European Council Meeting

WS1002081193 Riga LETA in English 0425 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Riga, February 9 (LETA)—Performance of the Latvian delegation in a winter session of the European Council in Strasburg was regarded as quite successful by members of the delegation - the Foreign Minister Georgs Andreyevs, Andreys Panteleyevs, Aivars Endzins and Rolands Blezurs. During a news conference held on Monday Andreys Panteleyevs, a deputy of the Latvian Supreme Council, pointed out that several relevant amendments were made in the documents of the European Council. According to Andreys Panteleyevs, the most important issue was the one of recognizing the legal situation of the Baltic states as occupied nations, compared to the other republics of the former Soviet Union. The deputy regarded as a very important achievement also invention of such notion as "repatriation" in the documents of the European Council. A decision had

been made that the Russian delegation would also participate in drafting a programme of repatriation. Up to now Moscow sought to consider every Russian person returning to Russia a refugee rather than a repatriant.

Andreys Panteleyevs added that in Strasburg another document of importance for Latvia had also been discussed, namely, a draft convention on minority rights, and also a blueprint for a document on renaissance of the Baltic Sea region.

The delegations of Latvia and Russia briefed the European Council on the course of negotiating between the two countries on the issue of the Russian Army withdrawal. Andreys Panteleyevs admitted that there had been a considerable disagreement of facts in the issue, which once again proved the importance of asking the presence of an observer on the European Council at the next round of talks. Such a request was submitted to the European Council in a letter signed by the Latvian State Minister Janis Dinevich, head of the Latvian delegation for the talks with Russia. Russia is not to be admitted to the European Council, not until after the issue of the Russian troops withdrawal was settled, Rolands Blezurs, a member of the Latvian delegation, added in the news conference upon the return from Strasburg.

Lithuania

Presidential Election Process Begins 8 Feb

OW0802122693 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1156 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuania actually began presidential elections on Monday [8 February]—a week before the appointed date: everybody who will not be able to come to election points on February 14 have a possibility to vote at a post office.

Republican election commission reported to BALTFAX that elector's certificates were handed over to 2,000,260 citizens of Lithuania. Elections will be considered valid if more than half of electors participates in voting; a candidate who will receive more than 50% of those who will come to vote will become a president.

Rules for Mass Media

LD0902134693 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1200 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Vaclovas Litvinas, chairman of the Presidential Election Commission, appealed to representatives of the mass media at a briefing held at the Seimas today. Vaclovas Litvinas pointed out that less than five days remain until the presidential elections. He said that the election campaign so far has been conducted in a friendly and businesslike manner.

He said that Article 42 of the Law on Presidential Elections charges the mass media to publish any reply given by a presidential candidate to published statements of a compromising nature not less than five days before the election date.

Therefore, starting with today the mass media are not permitted to publish any material of a compromising nature about the candidates for the post of the president of the republic, he said.

Brazauskas Outlines Foreign Policy Plans

OW1002190293 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1733 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Should Algirdas Brazauskas be elected president, his foreign policy will be oriented at establishing good relations both with the West and with the East, Lithuania's acting president said at a press conference in Vilnius on Wednesday [10 February].

In addition, Algirdas Brazauskas is planning to set up a presidential advisory council to coordinate the issues related to the republic's foreign policy. All of the republic's foreign policy decisions, he says, "should be collective and balanced." Mr. Brazauskas maintains that Lithuania's revitalization of its relations with Russia, following the presidential elections, should begin with the appointment of Lithuania's ambassador to Moscow and formation of Lithuania's state delegations for the talks with Russia. The third step, he says, should become a summit.

Mr. Brazauskas was fairly reserved in his comments on the "Act of Political Conciliation" which Stasys Lozoraitis, the second candidate to the presidential office, made public on Wednesday. Yet he characterized this document as "unacceptable" for the reason that Mr. Lozoraitis is proposing to him a new appointment to the post of the republic's prime minister ignoring the factor of direct presidential elections.

"The president should not be appointed by way of this or that agreement, but he should be elected by Lithuanian citizens," Mr. Brazauskas said, emphasizing that there isn't much time left before the elections for discussing such proposals.

Besides, Algirdas Brazauskas said, "a document, with the import of an act of conciliation, should bear more than one signature to under it." He called for getting all of the Lithuanian political forces to sign such an agreement.

Lithuania's acting president was highly critical about the policy pursued by the republic's preceding government and the International Monetary Fund which had devised the Memorandum of Lithuania's Economic Policy.

Mr. Brazauskas reasons that they directed Lithuania along one of the "most arduous ways", saying that the

ongoing decline of the standards of living comes as a "consequence of Lithuania's inconsiderate and unconditional implementation of the Memorandum."

In touching on the issue of foreign investments, Mr. Brazauskas dismissed the opposition leader Vytautas Landsbergis' accusations that the republic's government is not concerned with the 100-ECU [European currency units—figure as received] aid to Lithuania proposed by the European Community. He noted in this regard that he is aware of even greater aid, amounting to 285 Mn [million] ECU proposed by the European Community, saying that the variants of its most efficient use are being currently discussed.

Mr. Brazauskas revealed that Lithuania is receiving a constant flow of various foreign investments proposals, explaining that they come both on the state level and in terms of personal initiatives. He quoted one German entrepreneur as saying that he guarantees investments to Lithuania amounting to 1 Bn [billion] DM [Deutsche marks] provided Algirdas Brazauskas is elected president.

Brazauskas Against Administrative Territory Redistribution

WS1002120893 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1542 GMT 9 Feb 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 182]

[Text] 9 February 1993—Yesterday meeting the electorate in Rudamina constituency of the Vilnius district, Algirdas Brazauskas declared against administrative redistribution of the Lithuanian territory within the nearest future, as it would not bear fruit either in the political or, even more so, economical sense.

A. Brazauskas strictly dissociated himself from the actions taken by the government headed by Gediminas Vagnorius the after-effects of which are now attributed to the present Cabinet of Ministers. Those errors, particularly in the field of the agricultural reforms, are painfully affecting the life of the majority of the population. They are likewise causing pain to people in the eastern Lithuania whose economical situation, as usual, has never been too good.

The Cabinet headed by Aleksandras Abisala was not less blameworthy for misjudgment and mismanagement, Algirdas Brazauskas maintained. Especially fatal proved to be the emission of the ten billion talonai at the end of the last year, the freezing of salaries and pensions, the cessation of subsidies to agriculture. A. Brazauskas hopes that agricultural cooperatives and individual farmers will be to a certain extent supported by foreign credits on favourable terms this very spring.

The presidential candidate categorically declared against formation of the Polish territorial unit in Lithuania, however he assured that the Lithuanian Polish minority would be granted extensive opportunities to manage cultural, educational, and social matters independently.

Identic opportunities are going to be granted all the national minorities of Lithuania.

Brazauskas, Party Leaders Comment on Lozoraitis Proposal

LD1002233093 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Today, Mr. Stasys Lozoraitis' Act of Political Concord was published in Lithuanian daily newspapers. Algirdas Brazauskas and representatives from political parties have already given their comment on the act by Stasys Lozoraitis at a news conference which has just ended.

However, before we go on to the comments, I would like to remind you in brief about the content of the Act.

It reads inter alia:

Observing the complex social, economic, and political situation, I propose an act of political concord, which has to be implemented without delay.

Mr. Stasys Lozoraitis invites the political parties of Lithuania to reach agreement on the formation of a broad coalition government and on the strategic principles of a program to lead Lithuania out of economic ruin. He proposed that the government invite Algirdas Brazauskas, leader of the Seimas majority, to head the Lithuanian Government, to ensure the stable functioning of the Seimas, of the Republic of Lithuania, and the government, and to agree not to use the law on the dissolution of the Seimas or the government. He says, on the basis of agreed principles, a program should be prepared on political agreement concerning the economy, on social and economic structures, and on control and legal reforms that would be presented to the Seimas for confirmation by the president and government. This is what the act reads.

As I have already mentioned, this morning a news conference was held by the acting president. Here is Algirdas Usas from the parliament radio studio reporting about this and other news.

[Usas] [passage omitted] Algirdas Brazauskas gave his comments on Stasys Lozoraitis' Act of Political Concord, which was published by the press today.

First of all, concerning the manner of the statement: If this is an act of concord, then the participants in it should have held a discussion on this. However, we never spoke on this topic. There should be many signatures to this act. It would have been expedient to discuss this before the start of the election campaign, and now is not the right time to do it. Besides, said Algirdas Brazauskas, the very fact of the elections is being eliminated. The president is not appointed by agreement; he is elected by all the citizens.

Algirdas Brazauskas also said that talk about the isolation of Lithuania was an election myth. We have information about credits worth millions which are coming. All we have to do is to get seriously ready for them and to use them efficiently.

He was asked what what practical steps he would take to improve relations with Russia if he was elected. Algirdas Brazauskas said: First of all, I would appoint an ambassador; form a negotiation delegation; and third, have personal contacts.

He was asked what kind of foreign policy he would pursue. He said: A collective one, having formed a Council on Foreign Policy from members of the Seimas, the government, and others.

What post would you give to Stasys Lozoraitis, after he has already appointed you to the post of prime minister? Brazauskas said: He holds the post of the ambassador to the United States.

What has become worse after independence? The standard of living has decreased by three times, and this should be addressed first of all, he said.

And here is another quotation from Algirdas Brazauskas' news conference: We come to the elections just as we are, with our good points and our bad points.

After the news conference, the Act of Political Concord by Stasys Lozoraitis was commented on by leaders of some political parties: Aloyzas Sakalas, of the Social Democratic Party; Rimantas Smetona of the Union of Tautininkai [nationalist organization]; and Saulius Peceliunas, of the Democratic Party. They all supported the ideas expressed in the Act; they said that the parties were prepared to come to the table and to negotiate. They spoke for the broad coalition voiced by Stasys Lozoraitis.

Social Democrats Support Plan

OW1002190393 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1734 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The leader of the Lithuanian Social Democrats, Aloizas Sakalas, expressed his party's support of the "Act of Political Conciliation" proposed by presidential candidate Stasys Lozoraitis.

"Lithuania needs stability more than anything else," he said at a press conference in Vilnius on Wednesday [10 February].

Mr. Sakalas esteems as a most important point in this document Mr. Lozoraitis' commitment to form a coalition government in the event of his success at the presidential elections. The leader of Social Democrats noted that this idea was previously expressed both by Social Democrats and the Democratic Party of Labor of Lithuania which enjoys the parliamentary majority.

He also characterized as positive Mr. Lozoraitis' proposal to appoint Algirdas Brazauskas to the post of the republic's prime minister, if he won the elections. Mr. Sakalas was equally supportive of Mr. Lozoraitis' design not to dissolve the parliament nor form a new Cabinet.

Chairman of Lithuania's Democratic Party Saulius Pecialiunas and Chairman of the Tautininkiai (nationalist) union Rimontas Smetona also stated their support of the Political Conciliation Act.

Premier 'Cautiously Optimistic' After First Months in Office

LD1002215793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1914 GMT 10 Feb 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius February 10 TASS—Lithuanian Premier Bronislovas Lubys was cautiously optimistic in his evaluation of the results of the new cabinet's first months in office as he was speaking to journalists in the Government House on Wednesday.

His optimism was based on the following data he cited: The value of industrial products sold rose from 39 billion talons in December to 41 billion talons in January. According to the premier, a series of industries, including agricultural machine building, glass making and production of building materials, stepped up their output considerably.

"What permits me to evaluate the activity of my government with cautious optimism is that there is no hungry in Lithuania today, public transport functions normally, foodstuffs and other goods can be bought in shops, albeit at higher prices, and we have lived through the winter in our apartments, which were probably not very warm, and we succeeded in stabilising the prices of foodstuffs", the new Lithuanian prime minister stressed.

Responding to a question from ITAR-TASS about his government's clear cut strategy of East-West economic cooperation and trade, Bronislovas Lubys admitted that it was "in the phase of philosophical deliberations. The cabinet has not yet had time to work out a specific strategy, but separate ministries have already got their own programmes, he said, admitting that it was nothing for the government to boast about.

Lubys added that forecasts of the previous Lithuanian Governments sometimes failed to materialise: For instance, Western aid, easy credits and technologies have yet to reach the republic.

The premier said he pinned great hopes on the forthcoming meeting with the Russian prime minister next week, during which he hoped to discuss mutual settlements of accounts between the two countries, the problem of energy resources, the transit via Lithuania to the Kaliningrad region and other important problems.

Russian Envoy Evaluates Problems of Russian Speakers

LD0702204493 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Nikolay Obertyshev, Russian ambassador plenipotentiary and extraordinary to Lithuania, maintains that relations with the Baltic states are a priority issue.

Interviewed by daily LIETUVOS RYTAS, the diplomat remarked that Russia and Lithuania as sovereign states have started developing their relations from zero; diplomatic relations between Lithuania and Russia were established, not restored.

Regarding the Russian-speaking population in Lithuania, Nikolay Obertyshev remarked that their situation differs somewhat from the Russian-speaking population who live in France or Germany. According to the diplomat, the Russians who remain in Lithuania quite often find it difficult to be reconciled to the idea that they live in a foreign country. Some simple people are unable to understand this. According to the Russian ambassador, considerable efforts must be made in order to prove and explain this matter, which is the essential specific feature of our work in comparison with the activities of Russian embassies in Western Europe.

The Russian diplomat admitted that the situation of the national minorities in Lithuania is better than in Latvia and Estonia. Having become acquainted with the laws governing this issue, Nikolay Obertyshev drew the conclusion that these laws correspond to international norms and could even serve as a model to other countries. How these laws are being implemented is another matter. The diplomat is inclined to assess rights violations on the level of everyday life and not on the level of the law.

Russian MP on Situation

OW0902141593 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1218 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Fedor Shelov-Kovedyayev, a member of the Russian parliament, said on Tuesday at a press conference in Vilnius that the Russian-speaking population in Lithuania is in a better position than that in other countries, not only in the Baltic ones.

Shelov-Kovedyayev, who was until recently Russian first deputy foreign minister, is at the head of a Russian Club delegation touring Baltic states.

He told BALTFAX, "with great satisfaction," that Lithuania is the only Baltic state whose legislation meets all international legal standards.

He said his delegation has reached with the Lithuanian leadership "a whole range of basic agreements concerning the further activity of the Lithuanian branch of the Confederation of Slavonic Societies." On Monday, Shelov-Kovedyayev met parliamentary opposition leader Vytautas Landsbergis, and, on Tuesday, acting parliament chairman Ceslovas Jursenas.

Brazauskas Urges Introducing National Currency

OW1002125993 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1133 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Temporary Acting President of Lithuania Algirdas Brazauskas told a meeting in the west Lithuanian town of Telsiai Tuesday [9 February] that the introduction of the litas in the republic could ease the fiscal and economic difficulties there. He spoke in favour of the urgent introduction of the national currency and pointed out that this could take place almost simultaneously with the introduction of the kroon in Estonia.

Brazauskas was of the opinion that the committee engaged with this issue (the Litas Committee) had allowed the best opportunity for the introduction of the national currency to slip. As a reproach to the government of the time and the committee itself Brazauskas referred to the fact that the average monthly wage in Lithuania was currently worth only a little more than 20 US dollars.

Trade Agreements With Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan Signed

WS1002080793 Tallinn BNS in English 1901 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Vilnius, Feb 08, BNS—The Trade Ministers of Lithuania and Uzbekistan concluded a treaty on trade-economic cooperation for 1993 on Friday in Tashkent.

The document outlines plans to double trade between Uzbekistan and Lithuania in the next year.

Lists of deliveries often include identical goods. But, Uzbek and Lithuanian factories specialize in different kinds of metals, electrical equipment and fabrics. They intend to mutually supplement components for industrial equipment and household appliances.

One of the key issues at the negotiations related deliveries of cotton from Uzbekistan and food stuffs from Lithuania. They decided that Lithuania will pay for cotton with butter, cheese, meat, and preserves.

After negotiations in Tashkent, the Lithuanian delegation moves to Dushanbe and Alma-Ata to conclude similar agreements with the governments of Tajikistan and Kazakhstan.

On Feb. 4 Lithuania concluded a trade-economic agreement with Kyrgyzstan.

Brazauskas, NATO Commander Discuss Cooperation

OW0902192593 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1644 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Acting Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas on Tuesday [10 February] had a meeting in Vilnius with the supreme commander of NATO forces in Northern Europe, General Harry Johnson, discussing with him prospects for Lithuania's cooperation with NATO.

Johnson the same day attended a seminar for senior officers from the Lithuanian National Defense Ministry. He is also going to meet National Defense Minister Audrius Butkevicius and members of the parliamentary National Security Committee and will visit Lithuanian armed forces units.

Navy To Participate in U.S. 'Operation Baltic 93'

LD1002211493 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2000 GMT 10 Feb 93

[Text] The Lithuanian navy fleet is going to participate in the United States 'Operation Baltic 93' of the U.S. Navy in June this year. All the states of the Baltic region have been invited to take part in the maneuvers. Concrete possibilities for Lithuania to take an active part in the 'Operation Baltic' are still being specified, but Lithuanian ships will most likely participate in the maneuvers without stepping out of the waters of the Lithuanian economic zone.

According to the Commander-in-Chief of the Lithuanian Navy, Raimondas Baltuska, such maneuvers would be very useful to the Lithuanian Navy still in the process of creation. At present Lithuania has two military frigates as well as one ship for training purposes and several patrol boats for the coast guards.

Four L-39 Albatross Jets Procured Via Kyrgyzstan

OW0902180093 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1644 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Some days ago first aircraft of Lithuanian Air Forces landed in the Kaunas airport. These almost new four jet-propelled L-39 "Albatross" aircraft were produced in Czechoslovakia and procured in Kyrgyzstan. Next week they are to begin planned air raids. Military airdrome in Panevezhis is to become their first permanent base.

The L-39 class aircraft is a training aircraft for training flights. It was produced in 1968 for the first time. Maximum speed at altitude 1 kilometer constitutes 900 km/h [hour]. Maximum altitude is 11,500 meters. The aircraft can fly 850 kilometers without additional fuel tanks and 1015 kilometers with tanks.

The newspaper "LIETUVOS RYTAS" asserts that for Lithuania L-39 aircraft appeared to be rather cheap, it has paid $21,000 for each aircraft.

Until now pilots of newly created Lithuanian Air Forces were flying on old An-2 aircraft inherited from civil aviation and they were training on YaK-52 aircraft belonging to the Kaunas Flying Club.

Landsbergis Announces Future Council of Europe Membership

WS1002121393 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1542 GMT 9 Feb 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 182]

[Text] 9 February 1993—May 10-14 the National Flag of Lithuania will be unfurled in Strasbourg during the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe when Lithuania officially becomes a member of the Council of Europe. This news was announced yesterday at the press conference by the Leader of the Seimas Opposition Vytautas Landsbergis and the Head of the Lithuanian delegation to the Council of Europe Aloyzas Sakalas, Acting Deputy Chairman of the Seimas.

February 7 the Lithuanian delegation returned from the winter session of the European Council parliamentary Assembly in Strasbourg where it had also participated in the work of the E.C. committees and commissions and in its plenary sessions. The principal recommendation for the admission of Lithuania into the Council of Europe was delivered by the Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the E.C. Committee for Political Affairs. A draft resolution on preparation of popular migration within the territory of the former Soviet Union was presented by the E.C. Committee for relations with non-member nations.

Representatives of the Baltic States achieved that in respect to the Baltic States the term "emigration" in the resolution should be replaced by the term "repatriation", implying the return to one's native country.

In their joint memorandum, representatives of the three Baltic States raised the issue of the retrieval of the Baltic States' property abroad ceded to the Russian Federation. They also participated in the discussions of the withdrawal of the Russian military units form the Baltic countries. It was decided to dispatch a group of the E.C. observers to monitor the Russian pullout.

The Lithuanian delegation was received by leaders of the E.C. parliamentary assembly. Head of the Lithuanian delegation Aloyzas Sakalas paid tribute to the great preliminary work done by the former delegation of the Lithuanian Supreme Council to the effect of Lithuania's enrollment into the Council of Europe.